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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

APRIL, 1995

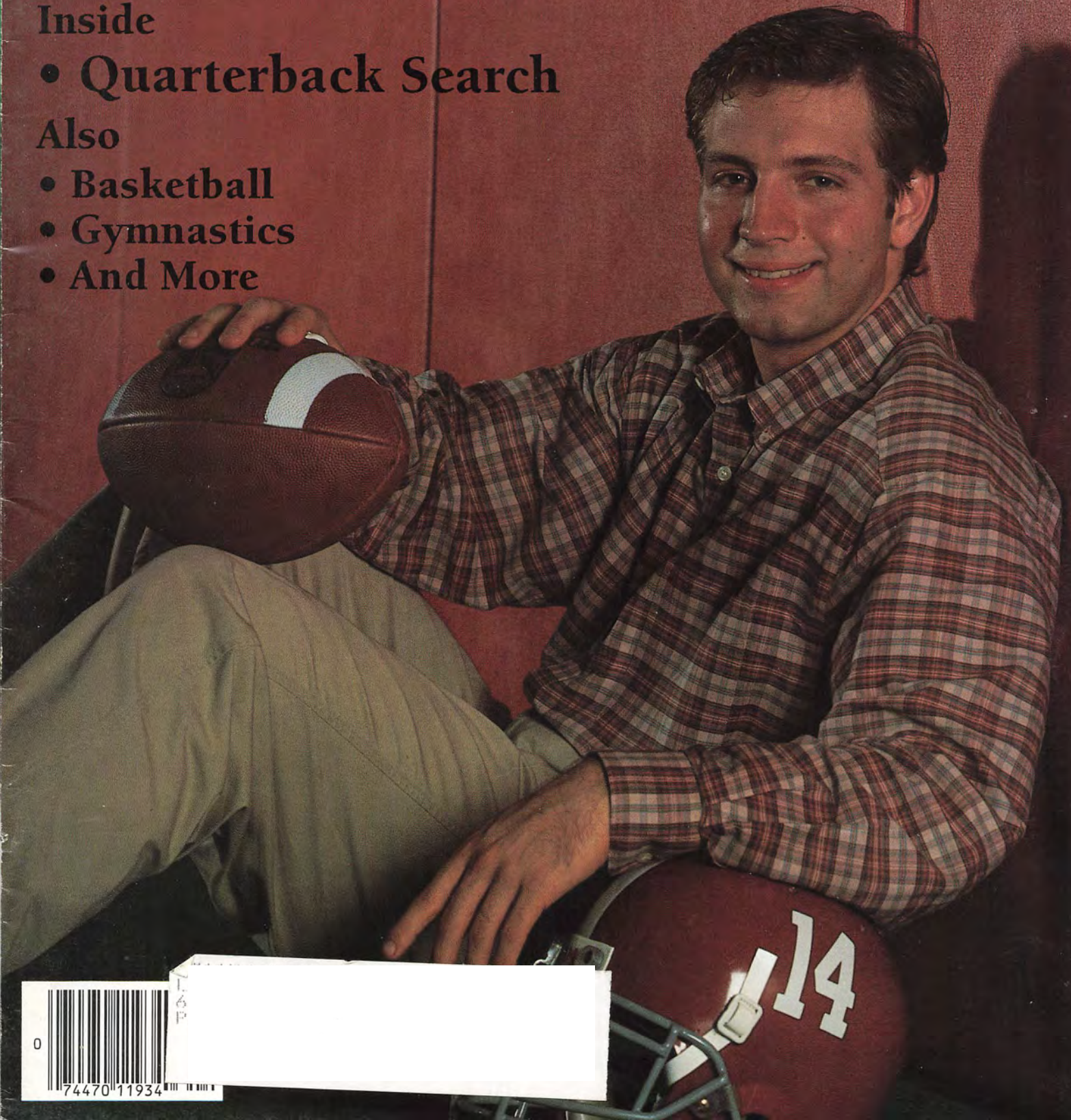
VOLUME 17, NUMBER 4

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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

APRIL, 1995

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 4

CONTENTS

On the cover: Although Brian Burgdorf had a short time in the sun at the end of his sophomore year, the upcoming senior hopes that 1995 is his time to shine as Alabama's quarterback. He has some competition, though. See Page 16.

Barry Fikes Photo



Page 6

Spring Training:

Defense Is Dominating. . .Again

6

Alabama is halfway through spring football practice and the news is familiar. As is almost always the case in early spring work, the defense has dominated the offense. Top priority is to find a center and put offensive linemen with that center who are tough.

by Kirk McNair

The Snappers:

They Are Special To Tide Success

12

College football is no exception to the era of specialization. A critical job on every kick is the snap, and Alabama returns its snappers for both punts (Jackson Cook) and placekicks (Chester Lewis). As long as no one notices them, they've probably done their job well.

by John Barnes



Page 14

Joel Holliday:

Wrestling's Loss Was Bama's Gain

14

Joel Holliday was as accomplished a wrestler, winning two state heavyweight championships, as he was as an All-America prep football player. He almost went to a school where he could play both sports, but picked Bama for football and is the leading candidate to start at left tackle in 1995.

by Donald F. Staffo

The Quarterbacks:

Chasing Burgdorf

16

Upcoming senior Brian Burgdorf is the heir-apparent to Jay Barker to be Bama's quarterback in 1995. However, three younger candidates have talent and are making a race for the job this spring. The position is not one Bama coaches are worried about.

by Kirk McNair



Page 20

Gymnasts Go For Title:

This May Be Best Tide Ever

20

The Alabama women's gymnastics team has finished in the top four every year since the 1985 NCAA Championship meet. This year Coach Sarah Patterson may have her deepest and most talented team ever.

by Craig Threlkeld

Instruction And Fun:

Tide Has Sports Camps

22

The Alabama athletics staff keeps busy during the summer with sports camps for youngsters in just about every sport the Crimson Tide has. Here's information on those camps.

by Donna Fromme



Page 24

Basketball Review:

A Good Year For Men And Women

24

Alabama's men's and women's basketball teams rank among the nation's best and include some of the best known and most respected players.

by Kirk McNair

The Departments

Football Depth Chart

10

Scorecard

26

Winter Sports Results

28

Spring Sports Schedules

29

Defense Is Dominating. . .Again

by Kirk McNair

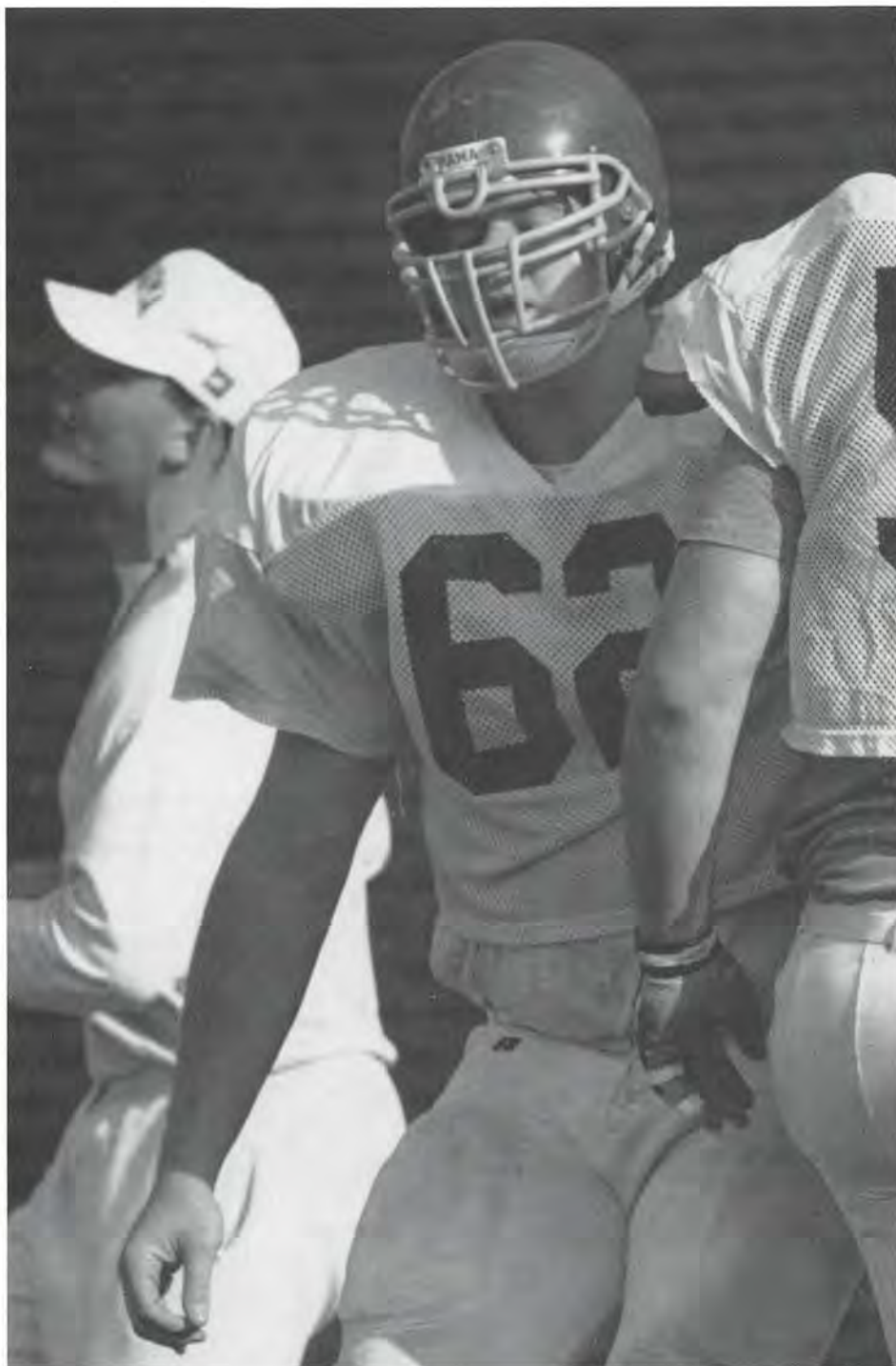
Halfway through practice, Stallings feeling better as offense shows spark

Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings wasn't particularly happy about how the first half of spring training went, but he wasn't particularly surprised, either. In the final week of drills before the Tide's spring training was interrupted by The University's spring break (March 24-April 2), Stallings saw the best performance by the squad, but also suffered the disappointment of two of his players, both returning starters, being arrested on misdemeanor charges.

Tight end Patrick Hape was charged with driving under the influence and defensive tackle Matt Parker was charged with interfering with governmental operations for allegedly trying to stop Tuscaloosa police officers from arresting Hape. Neither took part in the two practices following the incident. Stallings' only comment on the matter was, "I'll handle it."

Alabama completed eight practices prior to the spring break and will have seven following the break, the last practice the annual A-Day Game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 15, at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Six of the first eight practices were full gear workouts, of which 10 are allowed. But, as Stallings pointed out, after the break one of the four remaining full speed practices will be the A-Day Game and two will be used during Bama's spring coaching clinic April 7-8. "For all practical purposes, we're through with the hard work," Stallings said. However, those other practices, which are in "shells," meaning helmets and shoulder pads for protection, are nothing like the old non-contact practices in shorts and helmets. The players have enough protection so those practices have been physical, too. Stallings noted after one of them, "One of our goals is to have a physical football team."

Early in the drills, after another day in which the defense had thoroughly dominated the offense in the first game-type scrimmage at Bryant-Denny Stadium, Stallings said that one thing that had not changed since his arrival in the spring of 1990 is that the defense had always been ahead of the of-



Top priority for Alabama's football team going into spring training was to find a center. When drills resume April 5, that will still be top priority. Although returning starter John Causey is expected back in the fall after rehabilitating his injured knee, Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings wants to have two reliable centers at the end of spring training. Getting most of the work thus far has been Michael "Bubba" Ray (62), a walk-on who was formerly a little-used defensive lineman. It has been an eye-opening experience for Ray.

Barry Fikes Photo

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/APRIL '95

fense in early practice both in the spring and in the fall.

That situation is not peculiar to Alabama under Stallings, or even to Alabama. However, several factors made it almost a certainty that the defense would be more successful than the offense in early work.

- Alabama is looking for a new quarterback and a new halfback after Jay Barker and Sherman Williams provided almost all of Alabama's offensive production last year.

- At least the first half of spring training was going to be devoted to fundamentals, to finding the best football players at each position, not to schemes. A basic defensive scheme is close to a finished product, particularly against an offense running basic formations and plays. And Bama defensive players seem much more comfortable in the 4-3 defense, which became the Alabama staple last fall.

- There is no experienced center on the team since returning starter John Causey is missing work while rehabilitating his knee after under going surgery. Additionally, there are two other starters to replace in the offensive line.

- As is always the case at Alabama under Stallings, the defense has more of the best

A-Day Is April 15

This year's A-Day Game, the historic conclusion to spring football practice, will kick off at 1:30 p.m. at Bryant-Denny Stadium on Saturday, April 15.

There is no charge for tickets, but everyone must have a ticket for admission.

Up to four tickets per person may be picked up prior to A-Day at any location of Bob Baumhower's Wings Restaurants or Hibbett's Sporting Goods and tickets will also be available at the stadium on game day.

athletes. The Bama defense is particularly strong in the front seven (four linemen and three linebackers) where depth and experience overwhelm the offensive line.

- The secondary, with only one returning starter, was expected to be a weakness of the Alabama defense, but has proven to be very good in early work.

The only one of these factors that could change in the second half of spring training is the introduction of additional offensive schemes. However, that is not likely to be enough to put the offense on equal footing with the defense.

The final practice before the spring break gave the offense its closest brush with success against the defense. Although there were only two game-type scrimmages at the stadium during the early period of practice, there was scrimmage work every day. And as he promised, Stallings has had the first offense going against the first defense (and seconds against seconds and thirds against thirds) in much of the scrimmage work.

During this time there were days that were almost laughable because of defensive domination. In one goalline drill the Tide's first offense started on the three-yard line, and if the offense lost yardage it was automatically given the ball back where the play started. Second and third team defense players waited for their chance behind the first team defense in the goalline drill. And they waited just a few yards behind the first teamers, confident no offensive burst would hurdle into them. They were right. It took nine plays for the offense to complete its three-yard drive.

Stallings had several complaints about the offense during the early work, the most damning that he wasn't seeing players who wanted to compete. He also groused about poor technique and missed assignments.

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However, that final scrimmage at the stadium had both first team quarterback Brian Burgdorf and second team quarterback Freddie Kitchens leading their teams to touchdowns. (Although Kitchens was with the second unit, he worked with a number of first teamers on that unit as several positions—including quarterback—really have more than one man on the first squad.)

Stallings said, "I thought it was a little better than the last scrimmage we had. I feel a little better about the team than I did last week." Nevertheless, he added, "We're still a long way from being where we want to be. We're still having too many missed assignments and mistakes in technique, but we're better. We improved, but if you don't improve a little every day you're making mistakes."

"All-in-all, I think we've accomplished what we wanted to do. I wanted to have a pretty good idea of who the one and two players were at each position, and I've got a pretty good idea of that."

Despite the defensive dominance, a few players on offense have been singled out for their play, including both Burgdorf and Kitchens. (Neither of the other quarterback candidates, Lance Tucker or Warren Foust, has gotten enough work with the first unit to make much of an impression.) He has also been pleased with the running of tailbacks Brian Steger and Dennis Riddle and with the blocking of fullbacks Ed Scisum and Trevis Smith (a converted linebacker

Steve Harris (43) got a few snaps with the Crimson Tide in his freshman year last season, but when he was injured early he earned a red-shirt year. Now he's pushing for plenty of playing time in 1995 as one of the top performers for Linebackers Coach Jeff Rouzie.

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and one of the few real experiments of the spring other than the move of Michael Ray from back-up defensive lineman to first team center).

It has been a good spring for the wide receivers, split ends Curtis Brown and Chad Key and flankers Toderick Malone and Marcell West. The obvious exception is red-shirt freshman Calvin Hall, who broke his foot and is out for the rest of the spring.

Rod Rutledge and Tony Johnson are satisfactory tight ends, but the absence of Hape weakens this spot considerably.

Although it would be misleading to say the offensive line has done well, there has been improvement, particularly at the tackle positions where five men—Pete DiMario, Kareem McNeal, Joel Holliday, Chris Jordan and Sage Spree—are in contention for playing time.

While Stallings has not singled out a lot of defensive players for praise, there is no question he is pleased with defensive work. And a couple of names have popped up several times, notably

junior college transfer Kevin Jackson, who is working at strong safety. Jackson had key interceptions in both scrimmages (returning one over 50 yards for a touchdown) and has been a standout in the secondary every day.

It was joked that Defensive Coordinator and Secondary Coach Bill Oliver must be pleased with the defensive backfield because he hasn't been shuffling players over from the offense. Indeed, the work of Cedric Samuel and newcomer Jeremy Pruitt at safety has been good enough that John David Phillips, who was signed as a quarterback but shifted to the secondary last fall, could be going back to offense. Depth is still a problem but cornerbacks Deshea Townsend and Brad Ford have done well.

With over two dozen linebackers for three positions, it's not a surprise that there are some standouts. Competition is keen and the competitors are quality athletes. The most experienced—John Walters in the middle, Ralph Staten at strongside and Dwayne Rudd at weakside—are holding on to number one positions, but several back-ups, notably

Steve Harris behind Rudd and Fernando Davis and Tyrell Buckner behind Walters, have looked very good.

The defensive front is missing Elverett Brown, out of the spring with an ankle injury, and now Matt Parker is absent. However, work on the defensive line appears good. Shannon Brown at tackle and Darrell Blackburn at end are proven players. Tackles Ozell Powell and Eric Kerley have shown improvement. But the man drawing most raves as a future superstar is redshirt freshman end Chris Hood.

Although Alabama does not work on all phases of the kicking game in the spring (including no work on kick-offs), the practice that has been done has been pleasing to Stallings. Both snappers, Jackson Cook and Chester Lewis, are back, which is a plus. Additionally, Alabama returns an All-America candidate at placekicker in Michael Proctor.

The big goal is to find a replacement for punter Bryne Diehl. Although it's too early to say who will win that job, Stallings appar-

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ently has two excellent choices. Both Hayden Stockton, who was Diehl's back-up last year (but who punted only once), and newcomer Daniel Pope have punted very well all spring. And Stallings has been satisfied with both punt protection (blocking) and rushing. There has been no work on the return game, but Deshea Townsend has been the man back catching punts.

Stallings said he wasn't concerned about finding a placekicker since he had Proctor back, but he wanted to work on placekick protection and rush, and the Tide has done that each day to the coach's satisfaction. Additionally, since Diehl was the holder on field goals and extra point attempts last year, a new holder had to be found, and it appears to be back-up quarterback Lance Tucker. One bonus is that William Watts, used strictly on kickoffs in the past, has hit several field goals of over 50 yards.

The first football poll of the year is out and Alabama is ranked sev-



One of the most pleasant surprises of spring training has been the quick adjustment of junior college transfer Kevin Jackson to strong safety. Alabama sustained heavy losses in the secondary, but early indications are that the defensive backfield will not be a Bama weakness in 1995.

Barry Fikes Photo

enth in the nation. The bad news is that two other Southeastern Conference teams are rated ahead of Bama. An annual harbinger of spring is the release of the Football Writers Association of America pre-season poll. This year the FWAA poll picks Florida State to win the national championship, followed by defending national champion Nebraska, Florida, Texas A&M, Penn State, Auburn, Alabama, Notre Dame, Southern Cal and Tennessee.

Guess At A Depth Chart Halfway Through Spring

Although Alabama's football office does not issue an official depth chart, an observation of practice gives a general idea of how Bama players are fitting into the playing rotation. In some cases more than one player is bracketed as a first team or second team player. For instance, both Brian Burgdorf and Freddie Kitchens would be considered first team at quarterback. This depth chart does not include tight end Patrick Hape or defensive tackle Matt Parker, both of whom were first team at the end of last season but who did not practice after being arrested in an alcohol-related event; or center John Causey, defensive end Elverett Brown, or split end Calvin Hall, all of whom are out for the spring with injuries. It also does not list every player taking part in spring work, just those who at this time appear to be capable of being either first team or second team, since a goal of spring training is to find the top two players at each position. John David Phillips is listed at quarterback, although he could end up at safety, where he spent most of his time in the first half of spring training.

OFFENSE

Split End—Curtis Brown, Chad Key
Left Tackle—Kareem McNeal, Sage Spree, Chris Jordan
Left Guard—Maurice Belser, Jeremy Pennington
Center—Michael Ray, Matt Harrison, Chris Sign
Right Guard—Laron White, Will Friend, Josh Swords
Right Tackle—Pete DiMario, Joel Holliday
Tight End—Tony Johnson, Rod Rutledge
Quarterback—Brian Burgdorf, Freddie Kitchens, Lance Tucker, Warren Foust, John David Phillips
Fullback—Ed Scissum, Trevis Smith, Taurus Turner
Halfback—Brian Steger, Dennis Riddle, Curtis Alexander, Montoya Madden, Rondi Gibson
Flanker—Toderick Malone, Marcell West
Placekicker—Michael Proctor, William Watts
Snapper—Chester Lewis
Holder—Lance Tucker

DEFENSE

Left End—Kelvin Moore, Chris Hood, Edgar Walker
Left Tackle—Ozell Powell, Bryan Thornton
Right Tackle—Shannon Brown, Eric Kerley
Right End—Darrell Blackburn, Kendrick Burton, Vann Bodden
Strongside Linebacker—Ralph Staten, Paul Pickett, John Tanks, Tito Smith
Middle Linebacker—John Walters, Tyrell Buckner, Fernando Davis, Chris Edwards, Granison Wagstaff
Weakside Linebacker—Dwayne Rudd, Steve Harris, Lamont Floyd, Eddie Hunter
Left Cornerback—Brad Ford, Tracy High
Right Cornerback—Deshea Townsend, Owen Winston
Strong Safety—Kevin Jackson, Andre Short, Eric Turner
Safety—Jeremy Pruitt, Cedric Samuel
Punter—Hayden Stockton, Daniel Pope
Snapper—Jackson Cook



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They Are Special To Tide Success

by John Barnes

The only time a snapper is noticed is when he fails

In this age of specialization perhaps no sport has been affected more than football. Duties that once were taken care of by one player are now shared by two or three. Nickel backs, kick returners, third-down backs and receivers are now commonplace specialists in the world of big-time college football.

In the not-too-recent past, snapping the football was merely a means of getting the ball in the quarterback's hands. For Tiders Chester Lewis and Jackson Cook, snapping the football is not an extra duty. It's a way of life.

Now the duo is set to enter their second season as Bama's starting snappers. Both

Cook (punts) and Lewis (extra points and field goals) are an integral part of the Tide kicking game. Their job is to deliver a clean snap every time. No blocking, no downfield tackling, just get the ball to the holder or punter and allow them to do their job.

This singleness of purpose allows Cook and Lewis to spend virtually all their time perfecting their craft. Although Lewis is still listed as a backup tight end, his one and only responsibility is snapping for punts. With Patrick Hape, Tony Johnson and Rod Rutledge all experienced and accomplished tight ends, it is doubtful Lewis' role will expand.

For Cook and Lewis, both walk-ons, snapping the football is an art form, a skill that is difficult to learn and even harder to master. It gives them a chance to contribute to a program that would not be in need of their talents as position players. In both college and professional football, the position is always in high demand. As coach of the St. Louis football Cardinals, Gene Stallings once paid a player more than \$200,000 per

year for the specific purpose of snapping the football.

"What we do is very simple," said Cook. "I don't mean it's easy to perfect, because it's not. I'm not sure if anybody ever really masters the art of snapping. There's always room for improvement. The fact that we have no other responsibilities really helps us focus on what we're doing. It's really just repetition. It's all we do at practice, it's all we do in games. The only thing that really changes are weather conditions and playing surface. Other than that, it's pretty much the same every time. Last year, Bryne (Diehl) liked the ball right off his left knee, so that's what I practiced doing. I'm not sure who our punter will be next year (junior Hayden Stockton or freshman Daniel Pope), but I'll give him the ball right where he wants it."

Both Cook and Lewis agree that when nobody notices them during games, they know they have done their job. "That's really true," said Lewis. "The only snaps people notice are the bad ones. A bad snap, even a high or low snap in my case, can very easily cost you the



Jackson Cook (left), who snaps on Alabama punts, and Chester Lewis, the snapper for placekicks, will return to those duties for the Tide in 1995.

Barry Fikes Photo

ball game. That's where practice comes in. The more reps you get, the higher your level of confidence. Anything we can do to gain confidence and relieve pressure, we do it."

Tide Assistant Coach Jimmy Fuller not only teaches guards and centers, but Bama snappers as well. Few, if any, have more appreciation for their talents than Fuller. "I think most people, even the most knowledgeable fans, don't have an appreciation for what these kids do," he said. "It's all they do and we spend a great deal of time on it at practice. They're a big part of the kicking game and the team in general."

Both Lewis and Cook came to Alabama in search of playing time. Both could have accepted scholarships to smaller schools and Cook originally did, spending one year at North Alabama. Although Lewis had his sights set on tight end or linebacker, Cook is doing exactly what he intended. "All my life, I've wanted to be the deep snapper at Alabama," he said. "My dad is a high school coach and we've worked on my technique since I was a little kid. I'm doing exactly what I set out to do."

The 6-1, 240-pound Cook played for his father, Dale, at Cullman High School, where he was a center and defensive end, as well as long snapper. He signed with UNA in 1992 because he "wanted to see what it was like to be on scholarship."

While Cook was in Florence, Alabama won the national championship. After he transferred to Alabama, UNA proceeded to win two consecutive Division I-AA national crowns. "I guess I missed out all the way around," said Cook. "You would think I could have at least one ring."

Sitting out in 1993, Cook watched as Matthew Pine made a name for himself as the Tide's deep snapper. "Watching Matthew really motivated me," said Cook. "He was so good, not many people noticed him. He was probably the best to ever come through here and watching him made me work harder to perfect my skills."

The Tide's 1994 season was full of special memories for Cook. Among them, a memorable fake punt on the last play of the first half against Southern Miss. It was all for naught, however, as the clock ran out before Bama could get in field goal range. "That was a strange play," said Cook. "First of all, I couldn't believe it was called because we were punting out of the back of the end zone with just a few seconds on the clock. If I had botched the snap, it would have been a safety. Second, if the play had failed, Southern Miss would have called time out and lined

up for a sure field goal. The play was designed to score and we almost pulled it off."

No memory, however, brings more joy to Cook than Bryne Diehl's magnificent punt late in the Auburn game. With less than three minutes on the clock, Diehl lofted a beautiful punt toward the Auburn end zone. The ball landed inches short of the goal line, jumped directly sideways, and was downed by the Tide's Eric Turner. All of a sudden, the Tigers found themselves 99 yards from Alabama's goal and the potential tying score.

"That punt was a thing of beauty," said Cook. "When Bryne hit it, I knew by the sound that it was a good punt. We were hoping for inside the ten, but got it inside the one. I was thrilled to be a small part of it."

Chester Lewis' path to The Capstone was a little more clear cut. Lewis prepped at Tuscaloosa Academy and it was quite natural for him to attend The University. The walk-on route was his way to fulfill his dream of wearing the crimson on Saturdays.

Helping the Tide through an entire campaign without a blocked field goal or extra point, the 6-4, 235-pound Lewis knows he plays an important, but thankless role. "The thing about snapping for kicks is that everything starts with me," said Lewis. "Kicking field goals and PATs is as much about timing as it's about direction and leg strength. It's my job to provide a true snap at the same speed and in the same spot every time. In order for Michael (Proctor) to get off a good kick, the snap has to be perfect. A snap that's too high or too low could throw off his timing."

Lewis points to Bama's thrilling 29-28 victory over Georgia as the highlight of his young career. Proctor's 32-yard field goal in

the game's waning moments capped a furious fourth quarter rally and put the Tide ahead for good. "Yeah, that was sweet," said Lewis. "We got pushed around the whole game and to come back like we did makes all the hard work seem worthwhile."

Although Fuller has been coaching Tide snappers throughout his tenure at Alabama, he never ceases to be amazed at the work ethic and dedication of players like Cook and Lewis. "It's amazing to me when you see someone who performs on Saturdays and spends so much time working on their own," said Fuller. "Both Jackson and Chester work on their own a great deal and it pays off. I'd like to be able to say it's the result of my coaching, but most of what they do is a result of their own individual work. They just do the snapping over and over again and the repetition makes them better. They're the first ones on the field and the last ones off every day. As far as the field goals and PATs go, we spend at least 15 minutes every day watching the accuracy of the snap, the timing, everything. We throw as many situations and rushes at them as we can think of. They probably get more individual coaching than anyone on the team. It requires a great deal of technique and most people just can't do it with any consistency."

It is doubtful that either Cook's or Lewis' career at Alabama will ever involve more than snapping the football and that's just fine with both. Matthew Pine made a career of it. Jeff Wall was a four-year letterman as a holder. Everyone plays a role and Jackson Cook and Chester Lewis are comfortable in theirs. Both hope for a scholarship one day, but if it doesn't come, that's okay too. They are doing what they want to do.

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Wrestling's Loss Was Bama's Gain

by Donald F. Staffo

Soph offensive tackle had plans to wrestle in college

If you are big and tough, and want to wrestle, give Joel Holliday a call. Chances are he'd want to grapple with you. Holliday, the leading candidate to start at left offensive tackle for Alabama this fall, is always on the lookout for a good wrestling match, and they aren't easy to come by.

Holliday has a strong wrestling background as two-time South Carolina state champion in the heavyweight division. As a prep senior at Daniel High School in Six Mile, he had a 52-0 record, 51 of those victories coming on pins. As a junior he was 59-1. As a sophomore he was "only" 54-6.

High school wrestling season falls on the heels of football season. As a senior he played in the state championship football game, then on the following Saturday played in the Shrine Bowl all-star game (pitting the North Carolina all-stars against the best from South Carolina. Two days later he was opening the wrestling season. "That was the toughest match of the year for me because I was so out of (wrestling) shape," Holliday said.

"I love to wrestle," Holliday said. "I'm always asking guys on the football team if they want to wrestle. Sometimes they put the mats down over at the Rec (the Student Recreation Center) and I'll wrestle with someone, but most people around here don't know how to wrestle. I love it and really miss it. I want to coach it someday. It's a lot tougher sport than football."

Holliday was so dominating as a high school wrestler that it was assumed no one in South Carolina could beat him. But there was one who could. "My coach," Holliday said. "Alan Crenshaw. He was a three-time state champion and he beat me every day in practice. I never beat him. He'd even let me start out by putting any hold I wanted on him, and he'd win every time."

Holliday even defeated Clemson's heavyweight wrestler while in high school. He went to wrestling camp at Clemson. Indeed, Alabama's toughest recruiting battles for

Holliday came from schools with strong wrestling programs, Clemson and North Carolina State. Holliday actually committed to Clemson, where he planned to play football and wrestle, but when he had a difference of opinion with then-Clemson Coach Ken Hatfield, he changed his mind.

(In the 1970s Alabama had a wrestling program, and among the headliners for the Tide at heavyweight were outstanding football players John Hannah and Jim Krapf.)

Holliday was also a four-year starter at catcher for his prep baseball team and threw the shot put and discus for the track and field team. However, it is football where he drew the most attention.

Holliday was a prep All-America offensive tackle who played on football teams that compiled a 41-2 record and won back-to-back state championships. During his last two seasons he never gave up a quarterback sack and the offensive line he was a part of allowed only four sacks in two years. All of the Atlantic Coast Conference schools, along with Miami, South Carolina and Arkansas were competitors with Alabama for the services of Holliday. But once he made up his mind that he was going to play just football, "Then I decided I would choose the best team in the country."

Holliday may not be able to find much wrestling competition at Alabama, but the football competition has been considerable. After being red-shirted as a freshman in 1993, Holliday was the back-up man to Joey Harville at left offensive tackle last season. This spring he's hoping to win the starting job for 1995.

Holliday said, "Joey started, but we used two offensive lines that rotated in and out. We basically split time. I played almost as much as he did." Actually, Holliday played fewer than half as many snaps as Harville, but he did have 33 plays against Georgia and 28 against both LSU and Mississippi State as he saw action in every Tide game in his first season.

"Having two offensive lines really helped the team because we were able to give each other a rest. A good example of that is the Georgia game, when the second offensive line went in and put together an 18-play drive that produced a touchdown. After that, if we had to go back out there, there

was no way we could because we were so tired.

"But the first offensive line went back in and got us the winning field goal."

Holliday said the second offensive line was referred to as the 'Salty Dogs,' "because although we weren't that talented, we loved to hit and we were hungry to play."

Holliday was actually listed as the starting right offensive tackle until he strained his medial collateral ligament prior to the Tide's first game against UT-Chattanooga. Kareem McNeal then took over right tackle, with Pete DiMario backing him up. Slowed down, Holliday was moved to left tackle, behind Harville.

"Kareem had lost a lot of weight and had gotten faster over the summer," said Holliday. "He deserved to start at right tackle. And Joey Harville was a very good player and deserved to start at left tackle."

Holliday is also very complimentary of DiMario, Sage Spree and Chris Jordan, all competitors for the two tackle slots. "Spree is a good player who is going to be a great player," Holliday said, referring to the player most likely to battle him for the starting left tackle position. Spree was redshirted last season.

"Spring practice is wide open," said Holliday. "It's everybody's chance to show what we can do. Spring is when you build the depth chart for the fall."

"Last year I anticipated starting, and I ended up second-team. So I don't anticipate anymore."

"This year I'm just going to work hard and just hope for the best."

The upcoming sophomore suffered a mild setback early in the spring when he turned an ankle, but it was not a serious injury.

Position Coach Danny Pearman is aware of Holliday's potential, but made it clear that Holliday is still a long way from reaching it. "Joel is not yet the football player that he can be," said Pearman, also a native of South Carolina who coincidentally played high school football for Allen Sitterle, Holliday's coach. "Joel's football is ahead of him. He's got a lot of untapped ability. He can be as good as he wants to be, but he's got to put forth more effort."

"He's got to come on for us this spring. He



Joel Holliday is one of the Crimson Tide football team's strongest players, but suffers the frequent lineman problem of struggling to keep his weight down. Barry Fikes Photo

needs to have a good spring and fall to be in position to take one of the tackle spots."

Holliday, 6-4 and 300 pounds, says his strength is his biggest asset, while his lack of speed is his biggest liability. He bench presses 405 pounds, squats 505 pounds, and runs a 5.3 40-yard dash. He said both lifts probably rank about fifth or sixth on the team, with his 40-time in the range of the other tackle candidates.

"I feel by next year my bench and squat will both be a whole lot higher, and I hope to be faster," he said. "I know I'm not exceptionally fast, but I don't think 5.3 is a good 40 time for me at all."

Pearman agrees. "Physical size and strength are Joel's strong suit, but sometimes he gets too heavy and can't move at the speed we'd like him to," Pearman said. "His weight can be a problem. We'd like him to play at less than 290 pounds, maybe 285. It's a constant battle for him."

"Last year he had a pretty good spring and pre-fall practice up until he got hurt. But part of the reason for his injury may have been his weight."

Holliday said that because he came out of a good high school program that stressed fundamentals that his technique is adequate. But he said that since he stopped wrestling that he doesn't feel he's as fast on his feet as he used to be.

"We used to do a lot of foot drills in wrestling," he said. "I need to start doing those again."

Despite being a former high school wrestling champion and All-America football player, Holliday is friendly, soft-spoken and smiles easily. He is huge, and along with wrestling, lists weight lifting as a hobby. He says that he would one day like to be a fifth or sixth grade teacher.

"I think there is a need for more male role models in the elementary schools," he said.

"Being an athlete, it would be a chance to be a positive influence on young children." He said he also wants to be a head wrestling coach and "help out with football."

Before that, though, Holliday wants to be an All-America for the Crimson Tide. "I feel that everyone should have goals," he said. "I've always believed that if you're going to play a sport, that you should try to be the best that you can possibly be."

"It's a little harder to set goals at this level, but I honestly believe I can be an All-America one day. I'm big enough and we've certainly got the coaches here who can help me. So if I'm not, it's my own fault."

As for those who decide to wrestle with Joel, rest assured that it will be anything but a holiday. Because, his easy-going demeanor aside, if Holliday emphasized anything, it is that he loves to compete. And judging by his wrestling record and that of his football teams, he is used to winning.

The Quarterbacks:

Chasing Burgdorf

by Kirk McNair

Senior has lead over three talented younger players

Although it is natural that much attention be focused on the quarterback position, Alabama's football coaches probably aren't too concerned about it. Although it may not be known until close to September 2, when the Crimson Tide opens the season at Vanderbilt, which of four candidates will win the job as the replacement to the graduated Jay Barker, Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings is confident whoever wins the job will be able to move the football team.

The candidates, in order of their ranking going into spring training, are upcoming fifth-year senior Brian Burgdorf, third-year sophomores Freddie Kitchens and Lance Tucker, and redshirt freshman Warren Foust.

The man in charge of the position is Homer Smith. Smith returned to Alabama as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach last spring. Although Barker was unable to participate in spring training because of an injury, he had been Alabama's quarterback since the middle of the 1991 season, and he served in that role throughout 1994. "When I finally coached Jay, he had been a quarterback for three seasons and was well-coached," Smith said. "I was handed a quarterback already in blossom."

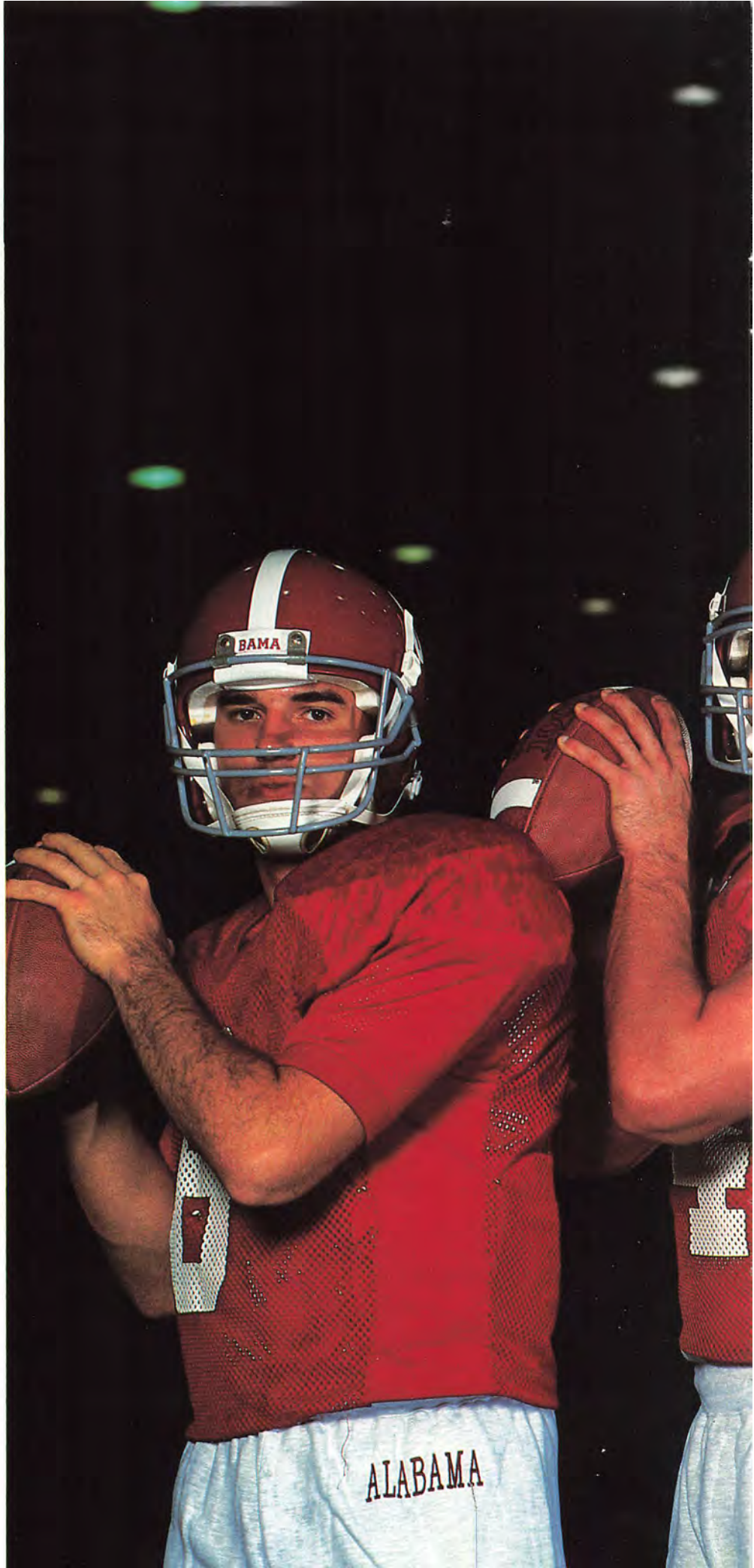
Now Smith is working to bring one or more of his quarterback candidates to that level. "During the spring we want to have the quarterbacks get on a rate of improvement, including knowing what they need to be doing on their own," Smith said. "We need maximum progress between now and game time. I could not be more pleased with their attitude and their work ethic. The competition is hot. However, we are not where we need to be in execution."

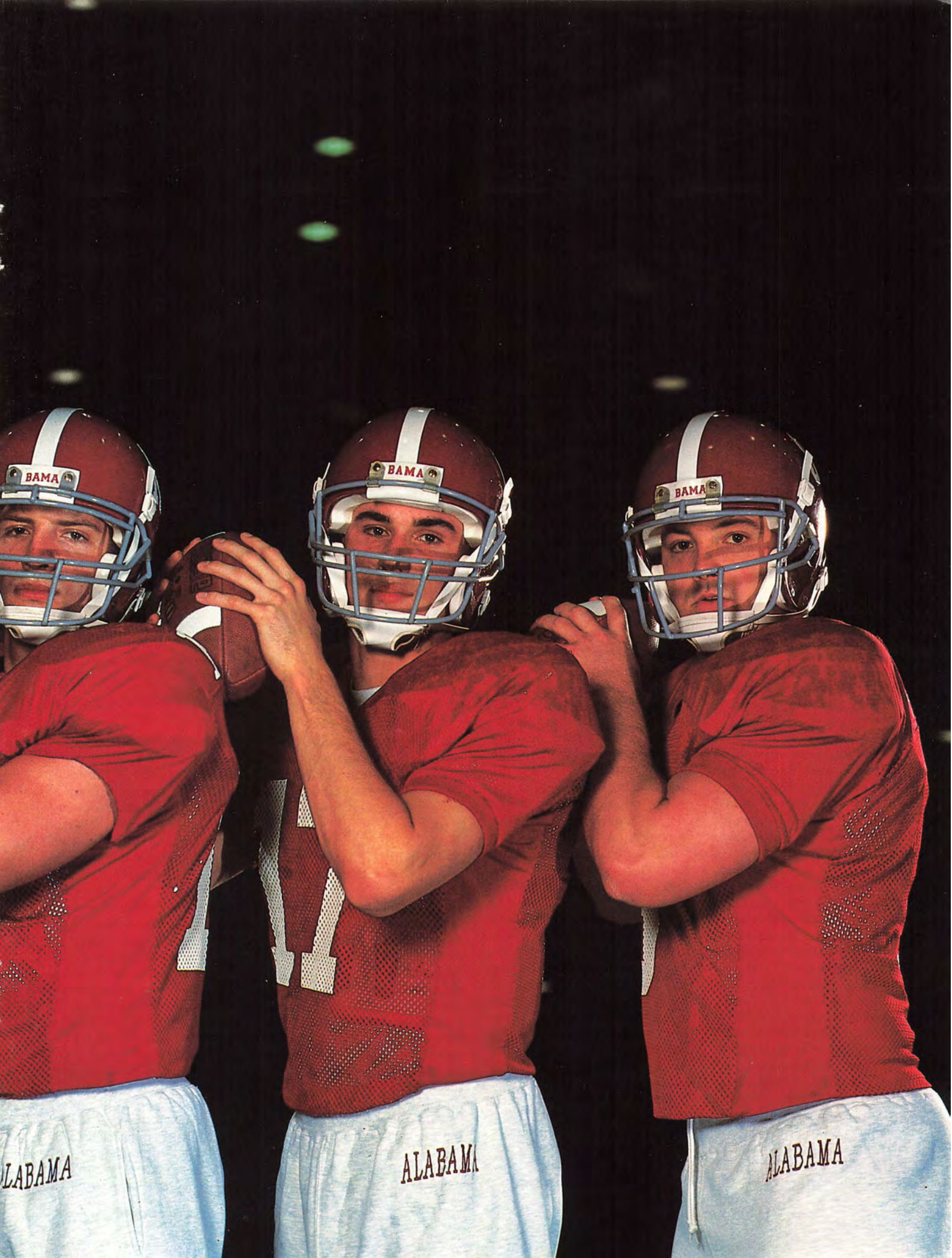
Smith has general observations of each of the candidates.

- On Brian Burgdorf: "Brian has been in

The candidates to be Alabama's starting quarterback in 1995 are (left to right) Lance Tucker, Brian Burgdorf, Warren Foust and Freddie Kitchens.

Barry Fikes Photo





the fight and won games. He's done it. And he's better now than he was when he won games. He got a lot of work last fall, although it was not game work.

"I like his versatility, his quarterback experience, his head and his desire. He's ahead and he wants to stay there."

- On Freddie Kitchens: "Freddie is deceiving. Everyone talks about his arm, but he also has exceptional legs. And his arm is 100 per cent after being at 20 per cent, 30 per cent, 40 per cent last fall. It probably didn't get to 100 per cent until just before the Florida game last year. He's an intense competitor. He wants the job."

- On Lance Tucker: "Lance has distinguished himself in the Alabama football program, though not in games. If he were to start a game there would be great excitement among the coaches. He's an uncanny football player."

- On Warren Foust: "Warren got all that experience against the great Alabama defense last fall. He's an intense player, but he's relaxed around football plays. He knows he can run it. He's very confident around T-formation action."

Burgdorf, an upcoming fifth-year senior, has added weight and strength in the off season and now carries 205 pounds on his 6-2 frame. "I was pleased to hear Coach Stallings say he thought my arm was stronger, because I've worked hard to make it stronger," Burgdorf said. "I had a great off season, which is what I needed to do. I've always worked hard, and I needed to this year. Every year I've tried to get bigger and stronger, and I have."

Although Burgdorf is the most experienced quarterback, that's not saying a great deal. Almost everyone remembers that Burgdorf took over for an injured Barker at the end of the 1993 season and went on to be Most Valuable Player in Alabama's Gator Bowl victory over North Carolina as he completed 15 of 23 passes for 166

yards. He ran 33 yards on a quarterback draw for one touchdown and passed for two others to lead the Tide to the win. But that game didn't translate into a great deal more playing time in 1994. After going into the season with most of the work from last year's spring training under his belt and ranked co-number one with Barker (who had been held out of spring drills), Barker won the job and Burgdorf played in only four games last year.

"It was disappointing to play so little," he said. "I went into the opening game against Chattanooga and completed the only two passes I tried and took us to two touchdowns, and then that was about it." A year after playing in nine games and completing 48 of 84 passes for 533 yards and four touchdowns, Burgdorf played only against Chattanooga, Georgia, Southern Miss and LSU in 1994 and completed only four of 13 passes for 42 yards. "I felt like I needed to play more last year for the experience, for me and for the team for this year," Burgdorf said.

Still, Burgdorf has more game and practice experience with Alabama's offense than any other quarterback candidate. "I've been waiting for my chance and now I've got it," he said. "But all I've earned is the right to compete for the job. I've got to work hard every day to be a good quarterback and to be a leader. I know the schemes and Coach Smith teaches me every day. I've got to learn football from him to be the quarterback."

"But a quarterback is different. He's got to be more than a football player. He's got to be a leader, and that means that every day is a tough day. Personally, I don't like to get hit, but I am going to work as hard or harder than any other player. We sweat together. It's important for the team that the quarterback is working hard to get better."

Burgdorf was also the back-up quarterback in the 1992 National Championship season, playing in six games and completing 12 of 23 passes for 160 yards. He was redshirted in



Freddie Kitchens was held out of action last year because of an injury that affected his passing. However, he is 100 per cent now, and has the strongest arm of the Crimson Tide quarterback candidates.

Barry Fikes Photo

1991, a year after earning prep All-America honors as the 3A Player of the Year in Georgia. He was all-state as both a junior and senior at Cedartown High School.

Kitchens, the biggest of the quarterbacks at 6-3, 230, missed all of last fall after he had to under go surgery to repair a torn right pectoralis major muscle, an injury suffered while he was pitching for Bama's baseball team last spring. He elected to forego baseball this year.

Although he plans to stay in Tuscaloosa all summer and report in the fall at about 220, he said his weight is down from the 232 pounds at which he reported as a freshman. And, he added, his conditioning is much better. More than that, he is pleased to no longer have pain when he tries to throw a football. He said the beginning of

the end of the rehabilitation came just before the Arkansas game last year. "I was throwing and I heard something pop," he said. "I went to the doctor and he told me it was scar tissue (from the surgery) breaking up. I kept throwing and it kept popping and eventually it was all cleared up."

Kitchens believes that sitting out last year helped him. "Although it's a little frustrating knowing you're not going to be playing on Saturdays, it helped me to watch and listen to Coach Smith," he said. "Learning the small things about the quarterback position makes a good player a great player, and that helps the team move the football."

He said he needs to improve his passing on the run, "and I've worked hard on that in the winter. I hope to continue to get better at it." Kitchens has a deserved reputation for a strong

arm, but points out, "That's not always what you need. Just as long as you get the job done and get the passes where they need to be."

Kitchens believes a quarterback "needs to have toughness. Things stem off the quarterback position. If he doesn't do what he's supposed to do, why should his offensive linemen? The quarterback is the center of attention on the field."

While conceding that Burgdorf deserved to be ranked number one going into spring practice, Kitchens isn't satisfied with being number two. "It's the way it should be because Brian has been here the longest," he said. "But whoever comes out of spring moving the ball best should be the starting quarterback in the fall."

As a prep All-America at Attalla Etowah, he was "Mr. Football" in Alabama in his 1992 senior season as he completed 86 of 160 passes for 1,640 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Kitchens earned a little playing time as a true freshman in 1993. While most of his playing time was downing the ball to close out Bama wins, he managed to complete seven of 14 passes for 188 yards and two touchdowns. His former high school teammate, Toderick Malone, was on the receiving end of both of the scoring passes, one of them a 77-yarder that was the Tide's longest of the year.

Tucker, a 6-0, 180-pound third year sophomore, sees the glass half full. Although Alabama lost some top players from last year, including Barker, Tucker said that, "Spring training is exciting. We lost so many key players and have so many new players that we ought to get better every day. And I see us getting better every day."

Tucker saw action in only two games last year, and one of those—the LSU contest—was only to down the ball on the final play of the game. His primary action came in the opener against Tennessee-Chattanooga when he played for 14 plays. He completed his only pass for 12 yards and had two runs for 14 yards. Otherwise, he was on the sidelines charting plays. And in practice, he got very few practice snaps. This year he's hoping for a better chance to see game action.

"I'm looking forward to the season," he said. "Last year I didn't get many reps in the spring because Jay was hurt and they wanted to give Brian a lot of work. Then in the fall, when Jay came back, he and Brian got all the snaps while they competed for the starting job."

Tucker understands that Burgdorf is again headed for most of the work this spring. "This is a back-to-basics spring, and it starts at quarterback," he said. "With us losing a

quarterback the quality of Jay it's important that Brian get as many reps as possible. The job is his, but he doesn't have that much experience, either. Still, he deserves to be number one because he's been here so long."

Tucker has worked very hard to improve, but without a specific agenda. "They (the coaches) haven't said that much to me, that I've got to do this or do that," he said. "I'm just hanging in there waiting for my turn."

One area where Tucker can expect to see playing time this year may be in the kicking game. He's a nifty athlete with good hands, and Alabama needs a holder for placekicks. Quarterbacks are naturals for holder (even last year's holder punter Bryne Diehl, had been a quarterback in high school) because if something bad happens, a quarterback has a better chance to save the play. "If that's what they want me for, I can handle it," Tucker said. "I'm not really concerned about that. I'm working to be a quarterback."

The rumor mill, which seemingly works overtime on every aspect of Alabama football, had Tucker transferring last year. "I've had a lot of people ask me about that, just like a lot of people used to ask Burgdorf that," Tucker said. "I think he said the same thing I say: I never even thought about transferring. If I'd wanted to go somewhere else I wouldn't have signed with Alabama."

Tucker knows something about being a quarterback. Unlike several Tide quarterbacks (including Barker), Tucker's career was never at another position. He was the starting quarterback for his father, Waldon, at Fayette County High School for six years, beginning in the seventh grade. He ranked second on national career lists for pass attempts and third for completions. The former 4A Player of the Year in Alabama holds state career prep records with 586 completions in 1,202 attempts for 8,173 yards and 63 touchdowns.

One story Stallings tells is that after Foust committed to Alabama during the 1994 recruiting season is that Stallings got a letter from Foust saying that Alabama's search for a quarterback was over. Although the redshirt freshman is last on the depth chart he doesn't lack for confidence, or any other key quarterback ingredients except experience.

Foust, 6-3, 210, proved as quarterback of the scout team last fall that he will compete, and that's one of the main things Stallings is looking for in a football player. He took almost every snap with the scout offense against Alabama's first and second team defensive teams. That hundreds and hundreds of plays with an offensive line of mostly untested players, including walk-ons, against one of the nation's strongest defenses. "I took all but about 10," he said. "But

as long as I'm going to be out there, I prefer to take every snap."

Foust said he has come to the realization that "I don't need to try to win the job on every play. I need to work hard this spring and summer and get a good feel for the offense. I just need to keep improving and then everything will take care of itself. . . or it won't."

He got a little hint from Barker that he thinks is helping him. "Jay told me the best way to make your arm stronger is to throw," Foust said. "I worked very hard in the off season and I'll stay here this summer and work out. I don't think an arm can ever be too strong."

One thing practice watchers can't help but notice is Foust's quick passing release. "People used to try to change it, but now it's considered an asset," he said. His scout team work against Alabama's top defenders all fall also showed his toughness. "There are very few times when you're playing quarterback that you have to show how tough you are," Foust said. "Vann Bodden knocked me senseless in one of the first practices of the spring. I felt it was important to jump right up. You don't want the team to see the quarterback hurt."

While running the scout team offense put him behind in learning Alabama's offense, he made a name for himself with Alabama's defensive coaches. "That's nice to hear," Foust said, "but I haven't had a chance to do anything bad. When you're running the scout team, the defense is trying to kill you, so if you do bad, that's expected. You can take all kinds of chances and not worry about things like interceptions when you're on the scout team."

Foust has a little Alabama background, but it wasn't particularly a factor in him choosing the Crimson Tide. He was the Oklahoma Player of the Year as he led Midwest City to the Class 6A semifinals. Although he rushed for nearly as many yards as he passed as a prep, it wasn't by design. He's considered a drop-back passer and completed 89 of 148 passes for 1,208 yards as a prep senior. However, he sometimes had to scramble and rushed for 1,062 yards, averaging 7.6 yards per attempt. He also had a background as a defensive back, and he had a feeling some schools might want him for the secondary, although everyone who recruited him did so as a quarterback.

Although he said his father is from Sheffield (his family has moved to Pensacola, Florida, since he signed with Bama) and "really wanted me to go to Alabama, he never said anything because he wanted me to make the choice I thought was best for me." Foust said he didn't follow Alabama a great deal "except in 1992 when they were beating everyone."

This May Be Best Bama Ever

by Craig Threlkeld

Tide has improved all year and is peaking as tournament time approaches

The Alabama gymnastics team is thinking national championship. And it may be that a couple of instances of adversity, one last year and one this season, could be the impetus to that crown. Alabama will be favored in the NCAA Regional Championships in Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 8, then participate in the NCAA Championships in Athens, Georgia, April 20-22. The Crimson Tide will probably go into the national championship meet ranked third in the nation behind Georgia and Utah. Those three make up the elite of college women's gymnastics.

Last year Bama set a school record and had what would have been a new national championship scoring mark at the NCAA Championship meet, but, unfortunately, the Tide finished .05 point behind champion Utah.

The Tide has had unparalleled success since 1985, the only team to finish in the top four throughout the decade. And that's part of the reason Bama expects to contend for another national championship this year.

"From the day they walk in, that's what we talk about," Alabama Head Coach Sarah Patterson said. "Our goal for a long time has been to put ourselves in a position to compete for a national championship at the end of the year."

Teaching the importance of this tradition was almost as critical as teaching the fundamentals of the sport for Patterson and her husband/assistant coach David because this is a very young Alabama team. There is only



Freshmen Merritt Booth (left) and Shay Murphy have played key roles in Alabama's 1995 success.

Barry Fikes Photo

one senior, Chasity Junkin, and freshmen have been a key to the season. "I felt we would get better as the season progressed, once we got the freshmen some experience and let them mature a little bit, and I think we've done that," Patterson said.

The Tide improved according to plan, improving its scores through the first five competitions of the season. And as the maturity level grew, Patterson noted one of this team's greatest strengths: depth. "Our strength now is our depth," Patterson said. "We've had some problems with people being either sick or hurt, and it seems like it doesn't really matter what lineup we put in there. People just stand up and do the job."

Bama's only setback came in its first meet with Georgia in Athens in February. Amid controversial circumstances, Alabama lost its only meet of the year. But Patterson feels that may have been a springboard for the Tide women. "If I had to look for a turning point, I'd say the first Georgia meet," she said. "The first Georgia meet was unfortunate because we were put at an extreme disadvantage, and I took responsibility for that for not having the widespread bars."

This year the NCAA Championship meet will have wider bars than have been used by all teams in the past. Prior to the start of the season Alabama made plans to use the bars that will be in place at the national championship meet and also checked with all opponents except Georgia to make sure they would use the wider bars. Since Georgia is hosting the NCAA meet, Patterson assumed Georgia would have the new bars. However, Georgia did not have the wide bars in place when Alabama came and the Tide had a miserable night on the bars.

"They (the Alabama gymnasts) were pretty upset at the surrounding circumstances and the loss of the meet," Patterson said. "But we put it behind us and got to work and got a lot better. I think that meet propelled us to a different level."

The Tide went undefeated the remainder of the regular season, including a win over the Bulldogs before a record-setting crowd of 12,021 in Coleman Coliseum. Patterson feels the Alabama-Georgia rivalry, however heated, has enhanced the sport's popularity and growth nationally.

"I think the rivalry has helped the sport grow," Patterson said. "We meet twice a year because our fans like to see each other. And every time we meet we set attendance records."

whose members understand what it takes to compete and win. "They know the job at hand and they come and work very hard," she said. "If anything, this team can be very hard on itself. The team motivates itself, and it's been easier this year in that I haven't had to push. Sometimes they don't know how really great they could be."

Patterson is satisfied that Alabama is entering tournament season "peaking." Another key ingredient will be to stay healthy. "I think we're peaking at the right time," she said. "We keep adding things each week, and that's been a trademark for our team. I would like to think that we're right on schedule."

Alabama continues to add routines to its arsenal, thanks in large part to the depth of the 1995 squad. Patterson sees improvement and explosiveness in the vault, an admittedly weaker event for Bama in the past. Inconsistency in the uneven bars is also being addressed, but Patterson feels confident about improvement and overall scoring. "Overall, our scoring is pretty balanced on events," she said. "I really don't see a weak event for us."

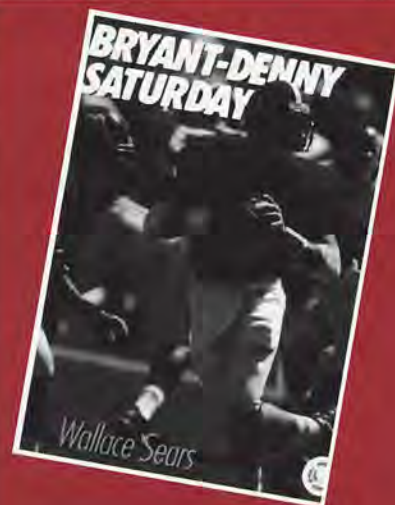
The Tide is a mix of veterans like senior Chasity Junkin, junior Kim Kelly, and newcomers Merritt Booth, Shay Murphy and Danielle McAdams, and that gives Patterson some choices at tournament time. "This is one of the most talented teams I've ever worked with," Patterson said. "We are so much deeper and have so many possibilities."

But while the talent level is high for Alabama, Patterson feels her squad has only narrowed the gap with other top teams. "There's a lot of parity out there in gymnastics right now," she said. That's particularly true in the Southeastern Conference where four of the nation's top ten teams perform. In addition to top-ranked Georgia and Alabama, LSU is ranked fourth and Florida sixth. Additionally, Kentucky is likely to make the 12-team national championship field.

(At the NCAA meet, the top six qualifiers compete together and the bottom six compete at the same time, and, traditionally, the scores of the top six are much higher.)

Patterson is looking for consistency as the NCAA qualification begins. "We have our work cut out for us," she said. "The teams that are going to survive and move on into the Super Six are the ones that are consistent."

For the past decade Alabama has been consistent. The 1995 team, with talent, depth and consistency, could bring another national title to Tuscaloosa.



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Along with a deep and talented roster, Patterson said the 1995 Alabama gymnastics team is a cohesive group

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Instruction And Fun:

Tide Has Sports Camps

by Donna Fromme

Tide coaches teach youth in nearly every sport

Summertime is an active time around The University of Alabama athletics facilities as nearly every Crimson Tide sport offers an athletic camp for kids and teens. While the purpose of the camps is to help youngsters improve their skills, Bama staffers make sure that camp is also fun.

With the exception of baseball, which houses its campers at a local hotel, each sports camp features on-campus housing for the camp session and includes meals. Campers are under 24-hour supervision by the camp staff, who also stay in the dormitories with the campers. Most camps offer reduced rates for day campers, who live in the area or who have made their own arrangements for local housing. Day camp fees include lunch, but not dinner. Meals are prepared and served in a campus dining hall. Most camps also allow campers to choose their own roommates if a sibling or friend is attending that session.

Camp perks include a souvenir tee shirt, copies of workouts, and, in many cases, personal evaluations that include videotaped performances by the campers.

A change in NCAA rules now allows graduating seniors to attend camps.

Here's a look at each Alabama sports camp:

Baseball—Coach Jim Wells and his Crimson Tide baseball staff offer four sessions for aspiring baseball players. The sessions are June 5-9, 12-16, and July 24-28 for regular camp and June 23-25 for Specialty Camp.

The baseball camps even provide its attendees choices of how long they want instruction during the day, dividing instruction for mornings, full day, overnight and even semi-private for specialized instruction.

Campers will learn position fundamentals, throwing and fielding, all aspects of pitching, hitting skills, team offense, bunting, baserunning, sliding, and strength and conditioning tips. The camp consists of several divisions based on both age and skill levels. The divisions include grades 1-3, grades 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, and 10-12.

This camp is open to ages 7-18. Cost of the camp is, for the June 5-9, 12-16 and July

24-28 sessions, \$110 to attend the 9 a.m.-noon morning session, \$200 to attend as a day camper from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$300 for overnight/resident campers, and \$350 for semi-private (Sunday 6p.m.-Friday at noon). Cost of the June 23-25 Specialty Camp is \$65 for mornings, \$120 for full day, \$180 overnight, and \$210 semi-private. (No meals are provided for morning campers, lunch only for day campers).

To apply, write: Alabama Baseball Camp, Inc., P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, or call: (205) 348-2427/8849.

Basketball—Two choices of sessions, June 18-21 or June 21-24, are available for boys, ages 8-18, at the Dave Hobbs' 1995 Basketball Camp.

A packed agenda awaits campers once they arrive at the camp which features guest speakers and camp counselors who include current and former Tide players. Campers are taught fundamentals, play in leagues, free throw contests, and ball handling, among other skills. Campers receive individual as well as group instruction and cap the camp with tournament playoffs and an awards ceremony which parents are invited to attend.

The cost for a session is \$250 with a \$15 break (\$235) for applications received by May 1. That reduced rate is also offered for groups of five or more, and, for day campers (lunch, no dinner), the cost is \$210.

To attend, write: Dave Hobbs, c/o Bama Basketball Camp, The University of Alabama, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, or call: (205) 348-6161.

Rick Moody coached the Alabama women's basketball team to the Final Four, and he's offering those same successful tips for girls, ages 10-18 at the Rick Moody Alabama Girls Basketball Camp.

He and his staff and player counselors will teach at two sessions, June 11-14 and June 14-17. Cost per session is \$230 for overnight resident campers or \$150 for day campers. Groups bringing five or more pay just \$210 per person.

Camp highlights include team and individual competition based on the camper's age and ability, fundamental station work, guest lectures and basketball film viewing, demonstrations, league play, ball handling, the Bama Supershooter contest, free throw competition, 3-point competition, an individual evaluation card, and an exhibition on the final day for parents that is followed by an awards ceremony.

For more information, write: Rick Moody

Alabama Basketball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 or call (205) 348-7077.

Football—Crimson Tide wannabe's can get the feel of what it's like to run out on the practice field at the University of Alabama when they attend the 1995 Alabama Football Camp. Two sessions are offered with specialty emphasis. Tide coach Gene Stallings and his staff run the camp.

Session I is held June 4-7. It includes Skill Camp (grades 7-12) for players who want to improve at skill positions, tight end and inside and outside linebacker. It also includes Line Camp (grades 7-12) for offensive linemen, defensive linemen and defensive ends.

Session II is held June 7-10. That session includes Junior Camp (grades 2-6) Skill Camp (grades 7-12), and Line Camp (grades 7-12).

Cost for either session is \$200, and requires payment in full at the time of application. For more information, write: The Alabama Football Camp, P.O. Box 870323, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0323 or call (205) 348-0808.

The Tide's football facilities will also be the site of the 9th Annual Tiffin/Mohr Kicking School. Its primary instructors are Van Tiffin, a former All-SEC kicker at Alabama, and Chris Mohr, one of the Tide's all-time greatest punters.

The camp is held June 11-14 and is open to 5th through 12th graders. Cost of the camp is \$200. The camp is limited in the number of kickers/punters it takes, so campers are encouraged to apply early. For a brochure, write: Tiffin/Mohr Kicking School, P.O. Box 870323, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0323 or call (205) 348-3624.

Golf—Tigers and Tidlers join forces each summer on the links. Alabama golf coach Dick Spybey and Auburn golf coach Mike Griffin will direct the 1995 Tiger-Tide Golf Academies.

Session I of the camp is held at the University of Alabama June 11-15. Auburn hosts Session II in Auburn June 18-22.

Young golfers (boys and girls ages 10-18) are instructed in the fundamentals of the five basic shots: putting, chipping, pitching, irons and woods. They learn strategy, how to handle trouble shots, brush up on the rules of golf, and are versed in the etiquette of the sport.

Cost to attend each academy is \$525. The fee includes insurance, housing, meals, practice balls, a cap and a camp tee shirt. The cost for a day camper, which does not include food and housing, is \$350.

This camp has a limited enrollment of 40 per session and has an entry deadline of May 31. To apply, write: The Tiger-Tide Golf

Academies, P.O. Box 2564, Auburn, AL 36831 or call Alabama's Mary Spybey (Dick's wife) at (205) 348-3600.

Gymnastics—Two-time national champions coaching duo Sarah and David Patterson head their annual Alabama Gymnastics Camp. For more information, including dates and cost, write: Alabama Gymnastics Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 or call the Gymnastics office at (205) 348-6161.

Swimming—One of the most popular camps, year-in-and-year-out, at the University of Alabama is its swim camp. This summer's offerings are conducted by first year Tide head coach Chuck Horton and assistant head coach Vance Rose who has been heading the swim camp for nearly two decades now.

The 1995 camp consists of a choice of five one-week sessions. Dates for sessions are: June 4-9, 11-16, 18-23, July 2-7 and 9-14. This is a camp designed for swimmers who have had some background in competitive swimming, and there is even an elite camp offered for elite level swimmers. Horton and Rose coach this group. The elite camp requires a minimum of two weeks' attendance and is by application only as applicants must meet certain time standards for admission. The regular swim camp includes stroke analysis and stroke correction among other instruction points. A day camp is offered for locals or those who don't require overnight housing on campus.

Costs of the camp are \$395 for the first week and \$295 for each additional week of the Alabama Swim Camp. Cost of the day camp is \$275 per week (includes lunch), and the Elite camp is \$750 for the two-week minimum and \$250 per additional week after that. There is a \$100 deposit due with each application, \$50 of which is nonrefundable in the event of cancellation. Balance of fees are due on May 15.

Write: Alabama Swim Camp, P.O. Box 6103, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-6103 or call Coach Vance Rose at (205) 348-3914/home 758-9853.

Soccer—Even before Don Staley's first University of Alabama women's soccer team ran on the field last fall, campers flocked to the popular coach's first annual Crimson Tide Soccer Camp last summer, and his 1995 version should be even more successful.

Staley and 'Bama assistant coach Karen McGrath head the camp which concentrates on the total player—strategies, fundamentals and attitude. Campers are divided into small instructional groups based on age and playing ability. All phases of soccer are covered with emphasis on ball skills, technique, overall understanding of the game—offen-

sively and defensively.

The camp is open to boys and girls ages 10-18. There are three different sessions: Girls Boarding Camp (June 7-21), Boys' and Girls' Day Camp (July 3-7), and Boys' and Girls' Pee Wee Day Camp (July 10-14).

The fee for Girls' Boarding Camp is \$285; Boys' and Girls' Day Camp is \$85 and Pee Wee Day Camp is \$50. To apply, write: Crimson Tide Soccer Camp, c/o Don Staley, Camp Director, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 or call the Soccer Office at (205) 348-6161.

Tennis—Tide men's and women's tennis coaches Joey Rivé and Jim Tressler combine to host the Crimson Tide Tennis Camp which is open to boys and girls ages 8-18. This camp is open to all skill levels, from beginner to tournament player.

There are three sessions to choose from, June 11-16, June 18-23 and June 25-30.

Campers work on stroke development and drills and they each receive individual instruction. They are placed in supervised game situations and match play. During the evenings, campers enjoy activities like team tennis, movies, swimming and other supervised recreational activities.

Cost of the camp is \$375 for overnight campers and \$225 for day campers. To inquire or apply, write: Crimson Tide Tennis Camp, Attn. Joey Rivé, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 or call (205) 348-0377.

Volleyball—For teams and individuals alike, the Dorothy Franco-Reed Alabama Volleyball Camp 1995 offers all types of instruction.

Franco-Reed's offerings include two camps, a Skills Camp that teaches the basic fundamental skills of the game and the Elite Camp which is more advanced and more rigorous for campers who have played at least one year of volleyball on the varsity level.

The camps are open to girls aged 10-18. In skills camp, campers are versed in passing, setting, hitting, blocking and individual defensive techniques. Fundamental team concepts are introduced.

In the Elite Camp, open only to high school players, campers are placed in teams based on skill testing. They then undergo a top level, highly skilled training program designed to take their skills to a new level.

Dates for the Skills Camp sessions are July 16-19 or July 19-22. The Elite Camp is held July 23-26. Cost of each session is \$230 (Skills or Elite Camps) for the resident camper. Daycampers pay \$150 per session.

To sign up, write: The Alabama Volleyball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393 or call coaches Dorothy and Tom Reed at (205) 348-6161.

A Good Year For Men And Women

by Kirk McNair

Tide teams once again play way into NCAA tourney

About 20 per cent of the nation's Division I basketball teams are selected to play in the NCAA Tournament, 64 teams in both the men's and women's tournaments. And when it's all over, 63 of the men's teams and 63 of the women's teams which were good enough to play in the national championship tournament will finish their seasons with a loss. So will 15 of the 16 men's teams and seven of the eight women's teams in the NIT. And so will most of the teams which did not qualify for a tournament. It's the nature of basketball, which is a tournament game, that almost every team ends its season with a loss.

Therefore, it's not reasonable to judge a team on how it finishes the season.

Both the Alabama men of Coach David Hobbs and the Crimson Tide women of Coach Rick Moody had successful basketball seasons, although there were disappointments for both.

The Alabama men's team, which finished the season with a 23-10 record, reached that 20-win plateau for the sixth time in the past seven years. The Tide was 10-6 in Southeastern Conference games, which was a little below expectations. While Bama was able to manage a 6-2 road record, including defeating both Arkansas and Florida of the 1994 Final Four on their home courts, Bama was only 4-4 at home, the first time since 1940 an Alabama basketball team had a better road record than home



Antonio McDyess was the star of the Alabama basketball show in 1995 and he has announced plans to return for his junior season, a year in which he should receive All-America consideration.

University of Alabama Photo by Kent Gidley

record in SEC games. For the most part, Alabama's anemic non-conference schedule doesn't even figure into the equation of evaluating the Tide season.

While Bama was able to post some impressive wins, they were off set by surprising losses. An overtime win over California to win a tournament in Oakland was the first major win, but it was followed quickly by an overtime loss to Vanderbilt in Nashville. The team that could hand Arkansas the only defeat it has ever suffered in Bud Walton Arena, and beat the Razorbacks by 18 points, would also lose games to that same Arkansas team, Georgia and LSU in Tuscaloosa. And while fellow

SEC West heavyweights Arkansas and Mississippi State were able to defeat Kentucky, the Tide never challenged the Wildcats in Coleman Coliseum.

It isn't hard to understand why Alabama could be so inconsistent. The best thing that could be said about Alabama guard play was that it was inconsistent. By the time Bama made its exit from the NCAA Tournament in a 66-52 loss to Oklahoma State, the guards had just about disappeared. Marvin Orange (the lone returnee in 1995-96), Artie Griffin and Bryan Passink had their moments during the year, but for the most part Alabama guard play was exploited by the opposition. Full court defensive pres-

sure was a major problem, disrupting the Tide offense even when it didn't result in a turnover. An inability of the guards to make the outside shot with regularity allowed opponents to pack the lane against Bama's inside game. And frequently, opposing guards had career high scoring days against the Tide.

Although it's early to be looking ahead, Hobbs no doubt looks forward to the arrival of Brian Williams from Montgomery's Jeff Davis High School who was chosen Mr. Basketball by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, and Anton Reese of Lithonia, Georgia, to help shore up guard play next season.

When Alabama play from the small forward position was good, it was very, very good, but when it was bad it was horrid. Anthony Brown started the season at small forward, but a recurring shoulder injury took him out for the year. Sophomore Eric Washington, almost unused as a freshman, became a star through the middle part of the season, before fading late as opposing defenses learned not to leave him open for the three-point shot. (Washington still managed to average 11.9 points per game.) Jamal Faulkner, who could never have lived up to the expectations of him, had streaks of greatness, but also long periods of time where he seemed to disappear. Faulkner is at his best when the inside is open, allowing him to drive and create shots. Unfortunately, with Alabama guard shooting a minimal outside threat, Faulkner saw few lanes not full of opponents.

Because of sophomore Antonio McDyess, Alabama's inside game was as strong as its guard play was weak. One of the best things about McDyess

is that he returns next year, and he'll be among those receiving pre-season All-America mention. McDyess was at his best at tournament time, setting an SEC record with 45 rebounds in three games of the SEC Tournament (to go with 46 points) and a Bama record 39 points and 19 rebounds in Alabama's NCAA Tournament opening win over Penn and 22 points and 17 rebounds in the loss to Oklahoma State. McDyess scored in double figures in 28 games, had double-figure rebounding in 16, and had double-doubles in 16 games, including the five tournament outings. For the year he averaged a team-leading 13.9 points, 10.2 rebounds per game.

McDyess' starting running mate inside, strong forward Jason Caffey, will be missed, even though it's fair to say Caffey never played to his potential. For a quarter of a century it has been Alabama's goal to get the ball inside to the big men for shots, but it may be no Bama big man ever insisted on trying the shot regardless of circumstances like Caffey. In those circumstances it was not surprising that Caffey had an inordinate number of turnovers (a team-high 85), many of them offensive fouls. Although Caffey was never a good shooter, he did improve dramatically on his free throw shooting at tournament time this year.

There's a chance that Roy Rogers, who was the top inside substitute this year, can move into a starting position in 1995-96. Rogers is an excellent shot blocker (his 66 trailed only McDyess' 68) and should be a good rebounder. He has improved his shooting and if he can develop some inside offense, Bama should be in good shape for starters at the two power positions.

There was good news and bad news when Rick Moody's Alabama women earned a fourth seed in

the NCAA Tournament. The good news was the Tide would host first and second round games. The bad news was that victories in those two games would send Bama to Storrs, Connecticut, to take on top-seeded and undefeated Connecticut on their home court. True to form, Alabama won its two home games, including an NCAA record-setting 121-120 four-overtime contest with Duke, and was beaten by Connecticut. The bottom line was Bama finishing with a 22-9 record and reaching the Sweet 16. Unfortunately for the Tide, the 1993-94 Bama had reached the Final Four, and expectations were high for a repeat to that lofty height since four starters, including two-time All-America Niesa Johnson and outstanding center Yolanda Watkins returned.

There were highs for this Alabama team. Bama opened the season on an offensive tear and was ranked as high as number five in the nation, but then lost back-to-back games. The Tide then bested highly-ranked Vanderbilt in Coleman Coliseum, but when the largest crowd in Bama women's basketball history showed up in Tuscaloosa, the Tide did not show up. Tennessee took a 51-point victory.

There were losses to Auburn, Florida and Georgia, all games Alabama could have been expected to win. There was a time when Alabama was 15-7 and Moody said publicly he was worried about his team gaining an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

However, Alabama closed out the regular season with four straight wins over SEC teams and downed nationally-ranked Arkansas for the second time this year in the SEC Tournament before being eliminated by Tennessee—but this time by only 14 points.

Alabama loses four seniors who produced 93 victories and four NCAA Tournaments the

past four years. While Johnson (Alabama's all-time leader in scoring and assists) is the obvious major loss, the Tide also

will be without guard Madonna Thompson and forwards Marlene Stevenson, Karla Koonce and Nanae Daniels.

A Clutch Performance

It was Niesa Johnson whose hands were on the ball three out of the four final Tide plays of the four-overtime game the Tide won over Duke to get to the East Regional.

Trailing Duke 81-78, Johnson hit a three-point jumper from the right side with 1.7 seconds remaining in regulation to tie the game at 81 and send it into the first overtime.

With almost the identical amount of time remaining at the end of the first overtime, she went to the free throw line in a one-plus-one situation and, after watching the first shot bounce three times on the rim before slipping through the net, she cleanly made the second shot to tie the game at 89-89 and send it into another five minutes of play.

With 1:23 remaining in the second overtime, she made two more free throws to put Alabama ahead at 97-95. Duke made a tying score to send it into a third overtime.

In the third overtime, Johnson hit a jumper with 49 seconds remaining to tie the game at 108-108. (Alabama's Brittney Ezell was fouled with 32 seconds remaining, but missed the shot that could have ended the game, sending it to an historic fourth overtime.)

In the final overtime with eight seconds to play, Johnson was fouled and made both free throws to give Alabama a 121-117 lead. Duke hit a three-pointer with two seconds to play to make the final score Alabama 121, Duke 120.

—Donna Fromme



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New York residents add \$1.17 per pennant sales tax.

BAMA SCORECARD

NCAA Vs. Alabama

When is a deal not a deal? Apparently when it's made with the NCAA. The University of Alabama agreed to resolve the NCAA investigation into the Crimson Tide athletics department by the process of summary disposition.

In pursuing the summary disposition, Alabama would have acknowledged that violations had occurred and The University would be involved in the penalty process. To that end, Alabama football signed only 14 prospects this year, 11 fewer than permitted and four fewer than the number that would bring Alabama to the overall limit of 85 with no attrition from the current squad.

Then, a few weeks after the signing date, Alabama was surprised to learn that the NCAA Infractions Committee was not prepared to accept the summary disposition. More information, the details of which have not been disclosed by either The University or the NCAA, was sought from Alabama.

The University provided that information on March 20 and said that it expected the material to be reviewed at the next meeting of the committee, April 17-19 in Washington, D.C. It is not known if The University will be represented at the meeting. However, a University official said it was expected that the case, now about two and a half years old, will be resolved at that time and an announcement will come in late May or early June.

Meanwhile, *The Birmingham News*, citing state open records laws, filed suit March 24 in Tuscaloosa County Court seeking to have The University make public the entire letter of inquiry from the NCAA. A hearing is set for May 1.

Jelks Case Nearing End?

Although none of Gene Jelks' allegations against Alabama and/or Jerry Pullen were recognized as reliable by the NCAA in its investigation of the Crimson Tide athletics program, those allegations have remained in the news because Pullen, a former Alabama assistant coach, sued Jelks.

However, there is reason to believe that case may be coming to an end.

Pullen would want it to come to a successful conclusion, that being one in which his named is cleared, but also one in which he picks up a large number of dollars.

Jelks would want it to end because he doesn't have anything to gain and has plenty to lose.

Jelks' former attorney, Stanley Kreimer, probably wishes he had never heard of Gene Jelks. The *Tuscaloosa News* recently reported that financial records presented in court in

Georgia show that Jelks received more than \$67,000 from accounts controlled by Kreimer. Kreimer was removed as Jelks' attorney in order that he may be added as a defendant in the case.

Corky Frost, who gained some infamy for his part in Auburn being placed on NCAA probation a few years ago, would probably like to get his name out of the newspapers. Frost, whom Pullen would like to add as a defendant with Jelks, has been tied to the case for having provided transportation to Jelks from his home in Gadsden to Atlanta, for allowing Jelks to use his telephone to make a telephone call to Pullen, and for paying for a \$1,500 shopping spree for Jelks.

Pullen believes that Auburn boosters were behind Jelks' allegations and hopes to be able to find the source of the funds. If Auburn boosters have provided the slush fund, they, no doubt, would want the case to end. And more than that, end without their names being disclosed. The way that could happen is for the case to be settled out of court, but it will be far more expensive than \$67,000.

The next hearing in the case is set for April 10.

Stadium Expansion

It will be at least 1997 before Alabama completes the first phase of its planned expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Alabama President Dr. Roger Sayers announced in December Alabama is considering plans to add 10,000 seats in the South end zone of the stadium, bringing total capacity to about 80,000. Cost of the expansion is expected to be \$14.75 million, and The University is exploring the possibility of having the City of Tuscaloosa participate in the financing. The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama supports the effort to have the city help with financing because each home football game will bring an estimated \$7.5 million to Tuscaloosa. The city is likely to participate if all Alabama home games are played in Bryant-Denny Stadium. Alabama currently has a contract with the City of Birmingham to play three home games per year (including the Tennessee and Auburn games when those are Bama's home games) at Legion Field in Birmingham. It is believed that both Tuscaloosa and Birmingham will negotiate for Tide games after 2001.

Future expansions being studied for the North end zone and the East side could bring Bryant-Denny Stadium capacity to about 100,000.

Bigger Not Always Better

Tennessee is making plans to enlarge

Neyland Stadium by 9,900 seats which would raise the stadium's seating capacity to 101,802. The architectural drawing of the expansion contains a bit of whimsy, showing Tennessee leading Alabama 28-7 with 38 seconds left. Tennessee hasn't defeated Alabama since 1985 and the Vols have only four wins since 1970. It makes one wonder if former Alabama center and humorist Roger Shultz approved the plans. Shultz remarked after Bama's 9-6 win over the Vols in Knoxville in 1990, "We ought to pay property taxes here. We own Neyland Stadium."

Football Yes, Basketball No

While almost everyone agreed that the Georgia Dome in Atlanta was an excellent venue for the Southeastern Conference Football Championship Game, opinion was just as firm that it was a horrid spot to have a basketball tournament. The only advantage of the Georgia Dome was a big one to Southeastern Conference officials and the athletics directors of the 12 SEC participants: a record sale of tickets, nearly 30,000 books sold. However, most of the seats were bad and the atmosphere was almost nonexistent since sound escaped to the upper reaches and through the world's largest and tackiest curtain.

However, the attendance record probably won't last long. Next year's tournament is set for the Superdome in New Orleans. In previous NCAA Final Four Tournaments the Superdome has been set up to accommodate 60,000-plus.

Bring your American Express card and your binoculars.

Replacing Polinsky

The Alabama athletics department will be hiring a couple of new people soon. When Gregg Polinsky, Alabama's assistant head basketball coach, was hired as head coach at Georgia Southern, that meant Bama Head Coach David Hobbs had to find a new assistant.

Additionally, Associate Athletics Director Don Gambriel must find a new assistant since Cindy Davis Polinsky will also be moving to Statesboro, Georgia.

Gregg Polinsky has served as an assistant coach at Bama for nine years. He has served as the recruiting coordinator, monitored academics, scouted opponents and coached on the floor.

Hobbs said he had no timetable for filling the position, but it is expected to be accomplished quickly. He said, "What I'll do is what I think is best for the program in all areas. That includes recruiting, coaching and relating to the players."

Basketball Recruiting

Although it may have seemed that a good bet for Alabama basketball in the late signing period would be a top junior college star in Alabama, the Tide may never have been seriously in the picture for forward Louis Moore of Southern Union in Wadley. Moore, 6-7, 215, has chosen Indiana, picking the Hoosiers over Arkansas. Moore is not a native Alabamian. He is from Rock Hill, South Carolina, and originally signed with East Carolina.

With the emphasis on signing inside players in the late period which begins April 12, Alabama still has a couple of junior college options and at least one top prep prospect.

Sunday Adebayo, a native of Nigeria who played at Three Rivers Community College in Poplarville, Missouri, is scheduled to visit Bama the weekend of April 15-16. Adebayo, a 6-6, 215-pounder, helped Three Rivers to a fifth place national finish as he averaged 20 points and 11 rebounds. He has also scheduled a visit to Arkansas.

The biggest of the big man candidates who is involved with Alabama is Thalamus McGhee, 6-10, 300, of Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas. He has visited St. John's and TCU, but ruled TCU out, and is still considering St. John's, Alabama, Illinois and Michigan State. He turned down visit offers to Kentucky and Indiana, according to his head coach, Leon Spencer. The Houston native, who played at Westchester High, averaged 13.7 points and 8.9 rebounds for the 23-6 team and had a best game of 42 points. He is expected to visit Alabama April 15-16.

Alabama will also get a visit from a top high school player, Kendrick Spruel of Redemptorist High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The 6-8, 190-pound forward will visit Alabama the weekend of April 8-9. Spruel, who was chosen for the Louisiana All-Star Game after leading his team to a 33-7 record, averaged 18.5 points, 8.5 rebounds and 2 blocked shots per game for Coach David Laird. He also has visits set to Houston and Florida.

There are also reports that Alabama is involved with players from national junior programs in Europe, but since coaches cannot comment on recruiting it is impossible to confirm those rumors.

All-Stars On Cable

The Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic, scheduled for 7 p.m. on June 17 from Ladd Stadium in Mobile, will be televised by SportSouth cable network.

Alabama football signees who will be playing for the Alabama high school all-stars are running back Michael Feagin of Greenville, quarterback Steve Stanley of Colbert County, defensive back Kelvin Sigler of Mobile Shaw, and offensive linemen Jason McDonald of

Theodore and Michael Moore of Fayette County. Representing the Mississippians will be Bama signee Michael Vaughn of Clarksdale, a wide receiver.

Mr. Basketball

Alabama signee Brian Williams of Montgomery Jeff Davis High School has been named Mr. Basketball by the Alabama Sports Writers Association. The 6-2 Williams led his team to the 6A state championship with a 32-1 record. Although Williams' point production fell from 24 points per game as a junior to 19 as a senior, his coach, Wilbert Hamilton, said he was a better player because of his assists and shot selection.

Another Bama signee, Javares Anderson of Greenville, was honorable mention all-state. Anderson won the slam dunk contest conducted as part of the state's Final Four championships in Birmingham.

Alabama women's signee LaTrish Jones of Huntsville Johnson, a 6-1 forward, was named to the Super All-State team by *The Birmingham News*.

All-America

Alabama women's basketball signee Dominique Canty, a 5-9 guard from Chicago's Whitney Young High School, has been named an All-America by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

Good Baseball Start

When Alabama's baseball team under new Head Coach Jim Wells compiled a 15-5 record in its first 20 games, it marked the best start by a Crimson Tide baseball team since Wallace Wade (that's right, the Hall of Fame football coach of Alabama and Duke) coached Bama to a 14-6 record in the first 20 games of 1924. Alabama won only 21 games (21-35) last year.

Pro Day

An annual rite of spring at Alabama is the arrival of professional football scouts, on hand to put Crimson Tide football players through a series of tests prior to the April 22 National Football League draft. Strong safety Sam Shade was the surprise of the test day as he recorded a sub 4.4-second time in the 40-yard dash. Sherman Williams, who has been given a clean bill of health after being diagnosed with a condition called "athlete's heart," also turned in a sub 4.4 time.

Other seniors on the 1994 team taking part in the tests were quarterback Jay Barker, fullback Tarrant Lynch, linebackers Michael Rogers and André Royal, defensive backs Tommy Johnson, Willie Gaston and Mickey Conn, offensive lineman Jon Stevenson, defensive lineman Dameian Jeffries, punter Bryne Diehl and wide receiver Roman Colburn. Offensive tackle Joey Harville did not participate, indicating he does not plan to

pursue a pro career. Two seniors from 1993, fullback Marcus Moring and lineman Dennis Deason, also participated.

We're Number Four

According to a survey by the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, Alabama's assistant football coaches were paid an average of \$72,000 each. The newspaper said Tennessee had the highest pay scale for assistants last fall, an average of \$73,044 each. However, LSU's new staff is paid an average of \$73,888. Auburn's staff received raises in January and, according to the newspaper, the average there is now \$72,778. Georgia's assistants also made an average of \$72,000 each last year. The biggest surprise is that Florida's average assistant coach's salary was \$65,055, in seventh place.

Swim All-Americans

The Alabama women's swimming and diving team managed a 15th place finish in the NCAA Championships with junior Stacy Potter leading the way. Potter finished second in the 100 butterfly in a school record :53.03. She also finished seventh in the 100 backstroke to earn All-America in both events. Sophomore Ann-Sofie Joensson turned in a school record performance in the 1650 to finish fifth and earn All-America. Sophomore diver Dana Bleich and senior breaststroker Katherine Rhodes were honorable mention All-America.

Mission Impossible

Things looked bleak for Alabama Head Track and Field Coach Doug Williamson at the NCAA Indoor Championships. His women's team had only two competitors and his men's team only three. Nevertheless, both squads managed top 20 finishes, the women taking the fourth-place finish of Jessica Fry in the 5,000 and the second place mile by Becki Wells to a 15th place finish, while the men got a third place in the long jump and seventh in the triple jump from Andrew Owusu and a fourth in the triple jump by David Ntberko to finish 19th.

Women's Tennis Success

When Jim Tressler became head coach of the Alabama women's tennis team a little over a year ago, he had a plan to get Bama into the top echelon of collegiate tennis. However, he probably wouldn't have promised a top ten ranking 12 matches into his second season. But that's what he's done. However, Bama jumped from 21st in the February rankings to 10th in the March ratings. Alabama's previous high ranking was 19th in 1993.

Individually, senior Marouschka van Dijk earned the highest individual ranking in Tide history at 26th, up 16 spots. Sophomore Hilde Otterman is ranked 42nd in singles and with Van Dijk is ranked 23rd in doubles. Senior Lori Smith was ranked 65th.

1994-95 Alabama Winter Sports Results

Men's Basketball

UA	Opponent	Opp.
80	Croatia (exh.)	41
<i>Pre-Season NIT</i>		
<i>(single elimination tournament)</i>		
79	Kansas State	48
69	New Mexico State	86
75	Verich Reps (exh.)	62
75	@ Virginia Commonwealth	57
77	Florida International	54
95	Florida A&M	48
73	Central Florida	60
68	@ Tulane (ESPN)	72
<i>Otis Spunkmeyer Classic @ Oakland, Calif.</i>		
83	TCU	64
76	California	73 (OT)
86	Central Connecticut State	39
74	@ Vanderbilt	75 (OT)
93	Virginia Military	67
74	@ Ole Miss	60
91	South Carolina (J-P)	59
61	LSU (ESPN)	74
68	Mississippi State (J-P)	64
88	@ Arkansas (ESPN)	70
69	@ Tennessee	46
65	Auburn (J-P)	63
58	Georgia (J-P)	72
65	Southern Miss	60
74	@ LSU	66
80	Arkansas (J-P)	86
86	@ Auburn	73
52	Kentucky (ESPN)	72
69	@ Florida (J-P)	66
69	Ole Miss	50
67	@ Mississippi State	71
<i>SEC Tournament @ Atlanta</i>		
55	Tennessee	43
68	Georgia	57
58	Arkansas	69
<i>NCAA East Regional @ Baltimore</i>		
91	Penn	85 (OT)
52	Oklahoma State	66

Women's Basketball

UA	Opponent	Opp.
103	Uralmash, Russia (exh.)	91
67	Athletes In Action (exh.)	42
<i>Alabama/Sheraton Capstone Classic</i>		
73	Villanova	57
90	Grambling	70
<i>California-Irvine Invitational @ Irvine, Calif.</i>		
74	Colorado State	62
105	Notre Dame	87
93	Arkansas	79
<i>Texas-Arlington Invitational @ Arlington, Texas</i>		
102	Lamar	50
99	Texas-Arlington	62
99	Middle Tennessee State	70
<i>St. John's Invitational @ Jamaica, N.Y.</i>		
76	San Diego State	79
119	North Carolina-Ashville	46
102	East Tennessee State	64
73	@ Maine	75
71	Vanderbilt (ESPN)	63
84	Illinois	47
88	@ Florida	97
67	@ Georgia	91
85	South Carolina	62
70	@ Auburn	86
90	@ LSU	60
95	Central Florida	63
44	Tennessee (SportsSouth)	95
56	@ Louisiana Tech	72
68	@ Kentucky	62
76	@ Mississippi State	55
84	Ole Miss	78
94	Tennessee State	60
<i>SEC Tournament @ Chattanooga</i>		
86	Arkansas	72
70	Tennessee	84
<i>NCAA East Regional @ Tuscaloosa</i>		
82	Mount Saint Mary's	55
121	Duke	120 (4 OT)
<i>NCAA East Regional @ Storrs, Connecticut</i>		
56	Connecticut	87

Gymnastics

UA	Opponent	Opp.
193.825	@ Auburn	189.625
193.900	@ Penn State	193.025
193.900	Oregon State @ Penn St.	191.550
194.8	Kentucky	191.425
196.7	LSU	195.550
194.825	@ Georgia	196.2
195.875	Arizona State	193.625
195.875	Illinois State	187.975
196.1	@ SE Missouri State	193.925
196.1	Missouri at Cape Girardeau	190.1
197.2	Georgia	195.225
195.525	@ Florida	194.550
195.525	Kentucky @ Gainesville	190.6
196.375	Auburn	188.65
<i>SEC Championships</i>		
<i>@ Gainesville</i>		
<i>1st</i>		
<i>April 8 NCAA Regional Championships</i>		
<i>@ Ann Arbor, Mich.</i>		
<i>April 20-NCAA Championships</i>		
<i>April 22 @ Athens, Ga.</i>		

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Result
Jan. 14	Saluki Invitational	
	@ Carbondale, Ill.	2nd
Jan. 22	Barnett Bank Invitational	
	@ Gainesville	NS
Feb. 4	Wildcat Classic	
	@ Lexington	NS
Feb. 11	Illini Invitational	
	@ Urbana, Ill.	NS
Feb. 25-26	SEC Championships	
	@ Baton Rouge	5th
March 2	NCAA Qualifiers Meet	
	@ Gainesville	
March 4	USATF Championships	
	@ Atlanta	
March 10-11	NCAA Championships	
	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	19th

Men's Swimming & Diving

UA	Opponent	Opp.
71	@ Kentucky	42
70	Louisville @ Lexington	43
193	Cincinnati @ Lexington	63
140	@ LSU	102
141	South Carolina	99
<i>Rammer Jammer Invitational</i>		
<i>Alabama 832.5, Miami 680.5, Clemson 669,</i>		
<i>Northeast Louisiana 590.5, FSU 512.5</i>		
73	Clemson	40
83	Northeast Louisiana	30
114	Georgia	129
87	Auburn	147
110	@ Florida	132
103	@ Tennessee	129
<i>SEC Diving Championships</i>		
<i>@ Lexington</i>		
<i>1st</i>		
<i>SEC Swimming Championships</i>		
<i>@ Columbia, S.C.</i>		
<i>5th</i>		
<i>March 23-NCAA Championships</i>		
<i>March 25 @ Indianapolis, Indiana</i>		

Women's Swimming & Diving

UA	Opponent	Opp.
65	@ Kentucky	48
70	Louisville @ Lexington	43
205	Cincinnati @ Lexington	86
138	@ LSU	105
<i>Rammer Jammer Invitational</i>		
<i>Alabama 1058.5, Miami 641, Clemson</i>		
<i>627.5, FSU 584</i>		
91	Clemson	22
100	Georgia	131
151	Northwestern	92
111	Auburn	132
96	@ Florida	137
85	@ Tennessee	154
<i>SEC Diving Championships</i>		
<i>@ Lexington</i>		
<i>4th</i>		
<i>SEC Swimming Championships</i>		
<i>@ Columbia, S.C.</i>		
<i>6th</i>		
<i>NCAA Championships</i>		
<i>@ Austin, Texas</i>		
<i>15th</i>		

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Result
Jan. 14	Saluki Invitational	
	@ Carbondale, Ill.	4th
Jan. 22	Barnett Bank Invitational	
	@ Gainesville	NS
Feb. 4	Wildcat Classic	
	@ Lexington	NS
Feb. 11	Illini Invitational	
	@ Urbana, Ill.	NS
Feb. 25-26	SEC Championships	
	@ Baton Rouge	6th
March 2	NCAA Qualifiers Meet	
	@ Gainesville	
March 4	USATF Championships	
	@ Atlanta	
March 10-11	NCAA Championships	
	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	15th

1995 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

Date/ UofA Score	Opponent	Time/ Opp. Score
2	Middle Tennessee	1 (11 innings)
6	Middle Tennessee	2
2	Troy State	1
8	Northeast Louisiana	5
7	Northeast Louisiana	0
6	Northeast Louisiana	8 (13 innings)
Feb. 28	Austin Peay	rained out
11	Samford	4
3	Penn State	4
4	Penn State	3
8	Penn State	0
10	West Florida	2
Continental Aggie Classic @ College Station, Texas		
2	@ Texas A&M	6
3	New Mexico	1
6	Illinois	2
15	New Mexico	3
10	Illinois	3
4	@ Texas A&M	5
3	Western Michigan	2
2	Western Michigan	4
15	Western Michigan	3
7	South Alabama	8
5	South Alabama	0
9	South Carolina	2
5	South Carolina	12
5	South Carolina	4
Mar. 29	Auburn @ Hoover	6 p.m.
Mar. 31	Florida	7 p.m.
April 1	Florida	2 p.m.
April 2	Florida	2 p.m.
April 4	Auburn @ Huntsville	7 p.m.
April 5	Samford	7 p.m.
April 7	@ Tennessee	6 p.m.
April 8	@ Tennessee	3 p.m.
April 9	@ Tennessee	1 p.m.
April 11	@ Alabama-Birmingham	6 p.m.
April 12	Alabama-Birmingham	7 p.m.
April 14	@ Mississippi State	7 p.m.
April 15	@ Mississippi State	2 p.m.
April 16	@ Mississippi State	2 p.m.
April 19	Livingston	7 p.m.
April 21	Ole Miss	7 p.m.
April 22	Ole Miss	2 p.m.
April 23	Ole Miss	2 p.m.
April 25	@ Notre Dame	7 p.m.
April 26	@ Notre Dame	5 p.m.
April 28	@ LSU	7 p.m.
April 29	@ LSU	2 p.m.
April 30	@ LSU	2 p.m.
May 3	@ Samford	2 p.m.
May 5	Arkansas	7 p.m.
May 6	Arkansas	2 p.m.
May 7	Arkansas	2 p.m.
May 10	@ Middle Tennessee	6 p.m.
May 12	Auburn @ Montgomery	6 p.m.
May 13	@ Auburn	6 p.m.
May 14	@ Auburn	1:30 p.m.
May 18-	SEC Tournament	
May 21	@ Starkville	

all times central

Men's Tennis

Date/ UofA Score	Opponent	Time/ Opp. Score
0	@ Miami	7
2	Pepperdine @ Miami	5
7	Southern Miss	0
3	Southwest Louisiana	4
SEC-Big 10 Challenge @ Knoxville		
2	Minnesota	5
3	Ohio State	4
2	Alabama-Birmingham	5
1	Ole Miss	6
Blue-Grey Championships @ Montgomery		
0	Mississippi State	6
3	Miami	4
2	Auburn	4
2	Tennessee	5
3	Middle Tennessee	4
@ Nashville		
March 27	@ Kentucky	1 p.m.
March 29	@ Vanderbilt	9:30 a.m.
April 1	@ Florida	11 a.m.
April 4	Auburn	3 p.m.
April 9	Arkansas	1 p.m.
April 14	@ Georgia	1 p.m.
April 15	@ South Carolina	11 a.m.
April 19	Mississippi State	4 p.m.
April 22	LSU	1 p.m.
April 27-	SEC Championships	
April 30	@ Baton Rouge	
May 12-14	NCAA Regionals @ TBA	
May 20-	NCAA Championships	
May 28	@ Athens, Georgia	

all times central

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Result
Feb. 18-	Gator Invitational	
Feb. 19	@ Gainesville	13th of 15 teams
Feb. 24	Queen's Harbour Intercollegiate	
Feb. 26	@ Jacksonville, Fla.	11th of 15
Mar. 24-	Southeastern Intercollegiate	
Mar. 26	@ Montgomery	15th of 18
Mar. 31-	Carpet Capital Classic	
April 2	@ Dalton, Georgia	
April 21-	Billy Hitchcock Intercollegiate	
April 23	@ Auburn	
May 12-	SEC Championships	
May 14	@ Vanderbilt	
May 18-20	NCAA Regionals @ TBA	
May 31-	NCAA Championships	
June 3	@ Columbus, Ohio	

Men's Track & Field

Date	Event	Result
Mar. 24-	Alabama Relays	
Mar. 26	@ Tuscaloosa	non-scoring
April 6-	Sea Ray Relays	
April 8	@ Knoxville	
April 15	SEC Six-Way	
	@ Starkville	
April 22	Crimson Classic	
	@ Tuscaloosa	
April 28-	Drake Relays	
Apr. 29	@ Des Moines, Iowa	
May 7	Auburn Invitational	
May 18-	SEC Championships	
May 21	@ Tuscaloosa	
May 31-	NCAA Championships	
June 3	@ Knoxville	
June 14-	USA Championships	
June 17	@ TBA	

Women's Tennis

Date/ UofA Score	Opponent	Time/ Opp. Score
6	South Alabama	3
Feb. 2-	Rolex National Indoors	
Feb. 5	@ Dallas	
6	Miami	1
5	Alabama-Birmingham	2
4	Clemson	5
6	@ Indiana	1
2	@ Notre Dame	7
7	Mobile College	2
5	Syracuse @ Kansas	1
5	@ Kansas	2
3	South Carolina	6
2	@ Auburn	6
6	Tennessee	2
Mar. 25	@ Ole Miss	11 a.m.
Mar. 27	@ LSU	2 p.m.
Mar. 29	@ Kentucky	2:30 p.m.
April 8	@ Georgia	11 a.m.
April 12	Mississippi State	2 p.m.
April 15	Arkansas	11 a.m.
April 16	Florida	10 a.m.
April 23	Vanderbilt	Noon
April 26-	SEC Championships	
April 30	@ Auburn	
May 12-	NCAA Championships	
May 20	@ Pepperdine, California	

all times central

Women's Golf

Date	Event	Result
Mar. 3-	Lady Gator Invitational	
Mar. 5	@ Gainesville	13th of 13 teams
Mar. 17-	LSU-Fairwoods Invitational	
Mar. 19	@ Baton Rouge	9th of 17 teams
Mar. 24-	South Carolina Intercollegiate	
Mar. 26	@ Columbia	15th of 15 teams
April 14-	Women's Southern Intercollegiate	
April 16	@ Athens, Ga.	
April 21-	SEC Championships	
April 23	@ Columbia	
May 11-	NCAA Regionals	
May 13	@ Memphis	
May 24-	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Wilmington, N.C.	

Women's Track & Field

Date	Event	Result
Mar. 24-	Alabama Relays	
Mar. 26	@ Tuscaloosa	non-scoring
April 6-	Sea Ray Relays	
April 8	@ Knoxville	
April 15	SEC Six-Way	
	@ Starkville	
April 22	Crimson Classic	
	@ Tuscaloosa	
April 28-	Drake Relays	
Apr. 29	@ Des Moines, Iowa	
May 7	Auburn Invitational	
May 18-	SEC Championships	
May 21	@ Tuscaloosa	
May 31-	NCAA Championships	
June 3	@ Knoxville	
June 14-	USA Championships	
June 17	@ TBA	

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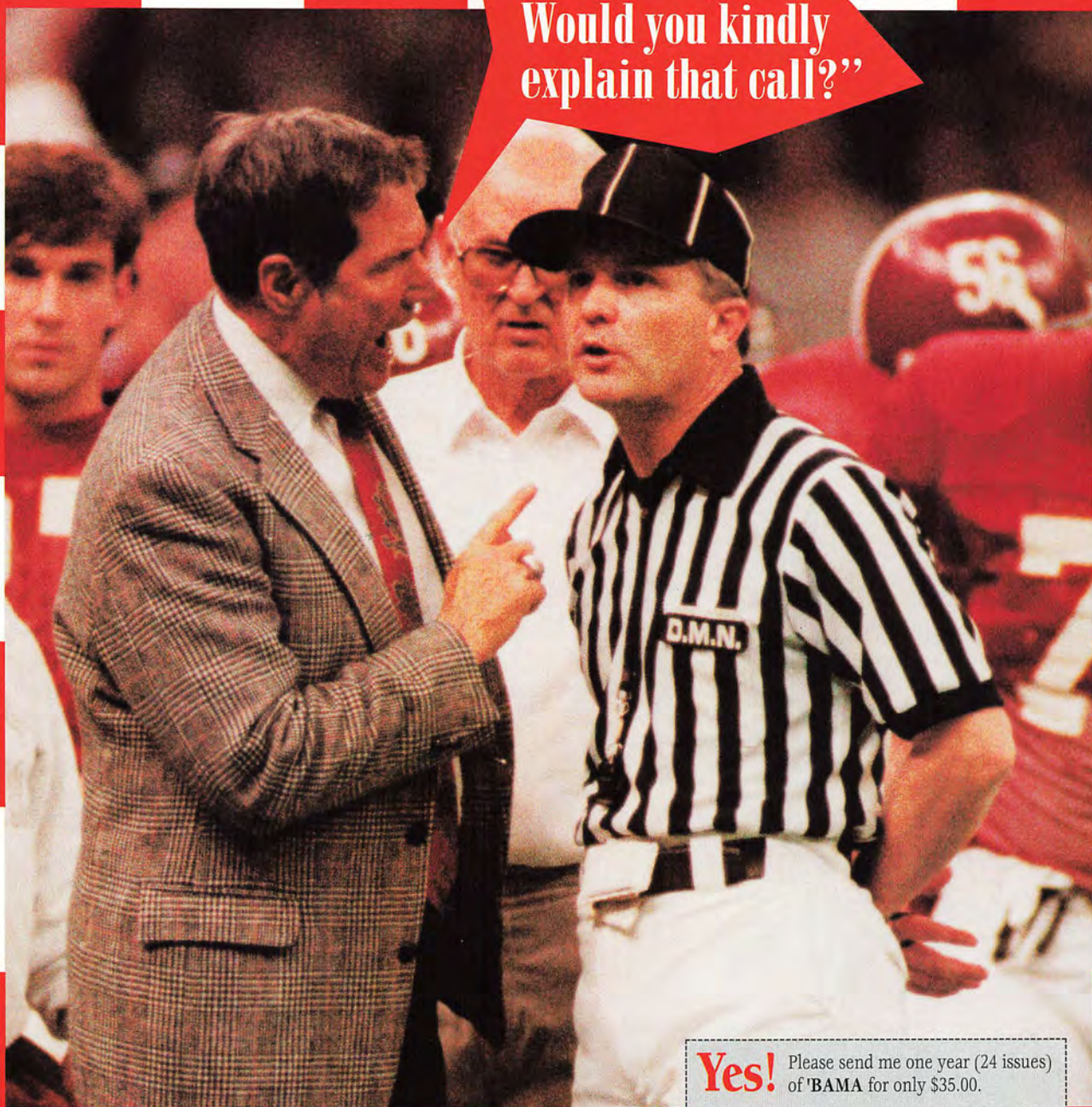
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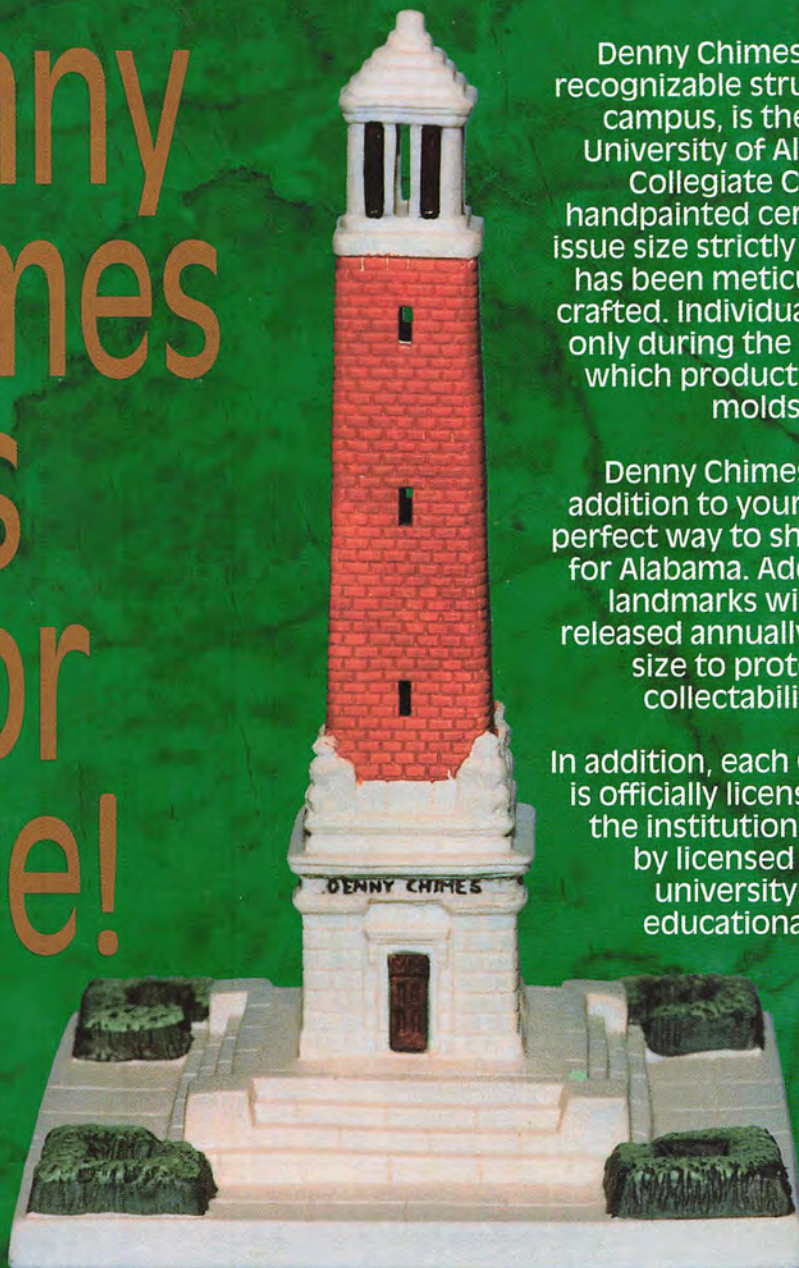
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